

See Through Zine

Pride Edition



Issue 11

Writers

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[@kateallicemcc](#) on Instagram

Interview

Marissa Angel Johnson

[Foothills Rainbow Connection on Facebook](#)

Artists

Caleb Hernandez (They/Them)

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Hideco

[@hidephotography.space](#) on Instagram

Ø Macioti (They/Them)

[@upon nothing](#) on Instagram

Edited by Kate McCaughey

Illustrated & designed by Erica Donnelly

[@ed.does.art](#) on Instagram

I'm not missing a minute of this. It's the revolution!

-Sylvia Rivera

Sylvia Rivera was one of the leading activists in the uprisings that followed the police raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York in 1969. She resisted arrest and continued to fight throughout her life for transgender liberation, Racial equality and LGBTQIA+ safety.

This Pride month, we celebrate the people who met hatred with power, and who protested and fought to have their voices heard. For many of us, Pride is a celebration enshrined in protest. Whilst we're partying and flying flags, we're remembering that we're there to be bold - to be activists. There's so much work left to be done, so our contributors fly their flags high this issue.

This month, celebrate your queerness in all the ways that feel wonderful for you. Share resources, speak out and don't forget to have a party for yourself - you deserve it.

All our love,

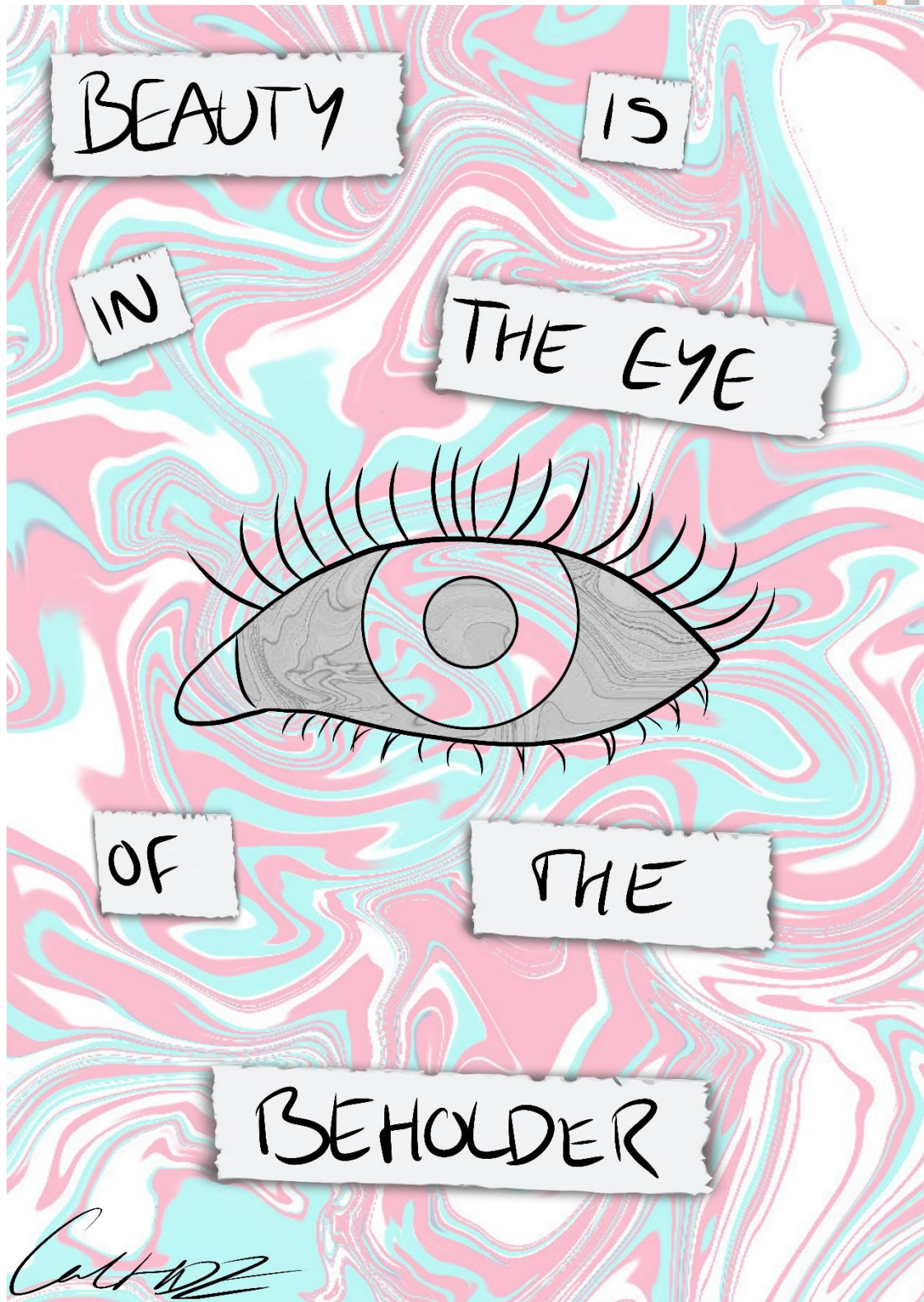
Kate, Erica and the *See Through* team x

If you'd like to submit work to future issues, or just keep up with the zine, please follow our Instagram

[@seethroughzine](#)

And check out our website

<https://katemccaughey.wixsite.com/seethroughzine>



I am a trans artist and spent most of my life when I was out as trans, being put down for appearance. Sometimes I wasn't masculine enough, other times I wasn't feminine enough. This made me deeply insecure overall about the way I looked. It took years and even lockdown for me to realise that I am beautiful regardless of what anyone says - especially transphobes! One of my favourite phrases is 'Beauty is in the eye of the beholder' which is why I chose it to be in this piece.

gA_y-Z

Asexuality / Aromantic is a person who has little, or no, sexual or romantic interest. Many Ace/Aro people do have meaningful romantic relationships, however

Bisexual is a person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to more than 1 gender, most commonly men and women

Cisgender is a person whose body aligns with their gender identity when they are born

Demi boy/girl is a person who is somewhere between being a binary gender (male or female) and between being non-binary. Sometimes demi boys/girls go by She/They or He/They pronouns, but not always



Elliot Page is an award-winning actor most famous for Juno (2007) and The Umbrella Academy (2019) who came out as a trans man in 2020, and is a leading LGBTQIA+ activist amongst celebrities

Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of Queen was known to be queer (either gay or bisexual) and was one of the most famous people known to contract AIDS, which he died of in 1991



Gay- Typically used to refer to men who are romantically and/or sexually attracted to other men, but also used as a more general umbrella term for deviating from heterosexuality, cisgender or binaried ways of life

Heteronormativity, coming from the label "heterosexual", this term refers to ways in which society adheres to heterosexual life and regards this as the norm, ie. making the assumption that a person is heterosexual

Intersectionality is the understanding that oppression should be recognised in unison; if a person is black, trans and disabled, we should recognise all of these things to be overlapping in terms of oppression, rather than isolated

Keith Haring was an openly gay American Pop-Artist famously successful in the 1980s. He contracted AIDS and died in 1990 of related complications, and much of his work and activism focused on the AIDS and Safe-Sex causes

Lesbian is a woman who is romantically and/or sexually attracted to women. This term however, is not solely used by women, for women, but includes non-binary identities too

Non-binary is the label given to people who exist outside of the binaried genders of male or female. Many people use more specific terms such as Agender (without gender completely) or Genderfluid (moving across the spectrum of gender). Often, but not always, non-binary people prefer pronouns such as They/Them or "Neo Pronouns"

Gentleman

Jack was the nickname for Anne Lister, a Yorkshirewoman in the 18th-19th Century dubbed "the first modern lesbian". She married Ann Walker in disguise; technically, the first lesbian wedding in Britain



Monroe Bergdorf is an English model and activist who was the first Trans model to be signed to L'Oréal in the UK, but they later dropped her after she spoke out about racism. She has since continued her activism work worldwide

Oscar Wilde was an Irish playwright living in the 19th century, famed for comedic wit and being imprisoned at the end of his life for being gay



Pansexual is the label given to people who are attracted to others regardless of gender, and so would hypothetically date people of any gender

Romantic attraction is an important distinction between a sexual attraction to someone or a closer, deeper connection. For many LGBTQIA+ people, they might only have one for a certain gender

Stonewall Inn was a gay bar in Greenwich Village, New York City, open between 1967 and 1969. In 1969 it was raided by police, leading to a series of riots and demonstrations for the gay liberation movement in the 60s, 70s and 80s

Transgender "Trans" is the label given to people whose gender identity differs from the biological sex of their body. Many (not all) Non-Binary or Gender Non-Conforming people also identify themselves as trans, because their gender identity also differs from their biological sex

Visibility is a frequently used term, but is important as it refers to how LGBTQIA+ people deserve to be seen everywhere, and how this has a positive impact on the world

Queer is an umbrella term originating from reclaiming the slur from the past. Many people use it to describe their own sexuality or gender identity, especially if they don't have another label that "fits" but many also just use it as shorthand for LGBTQIA



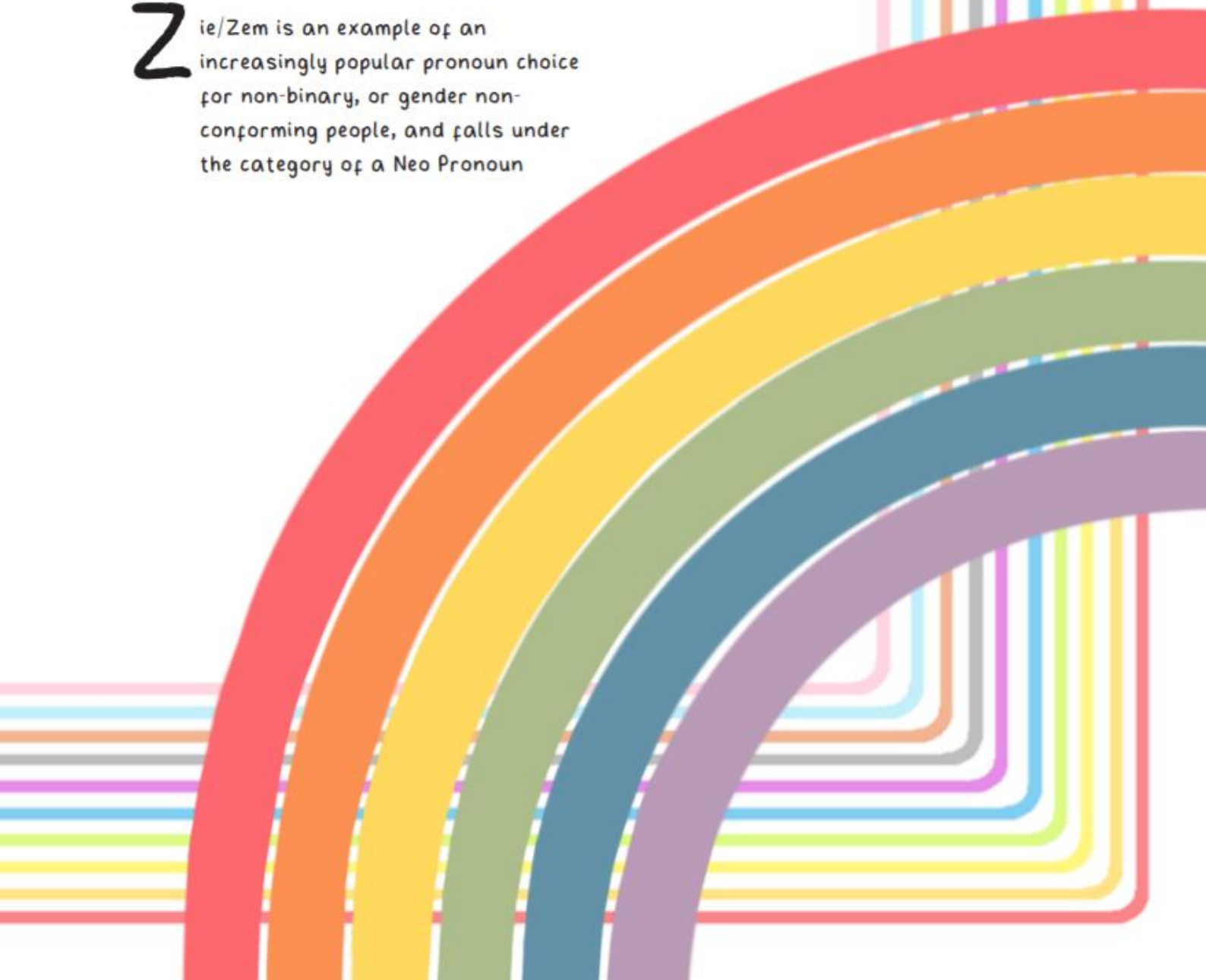
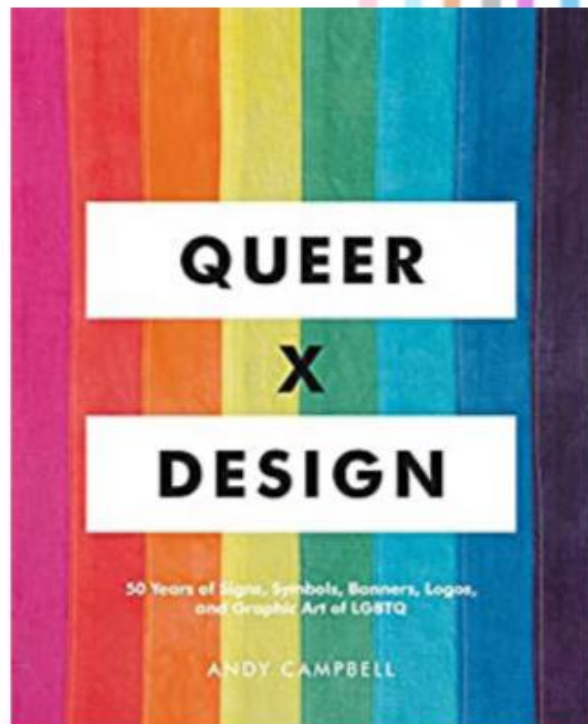
Unlabelled. Many LGBTQIA+ people don't feel that there is a particular label that fits them, or don't desire to be put into a box in terms of their identity

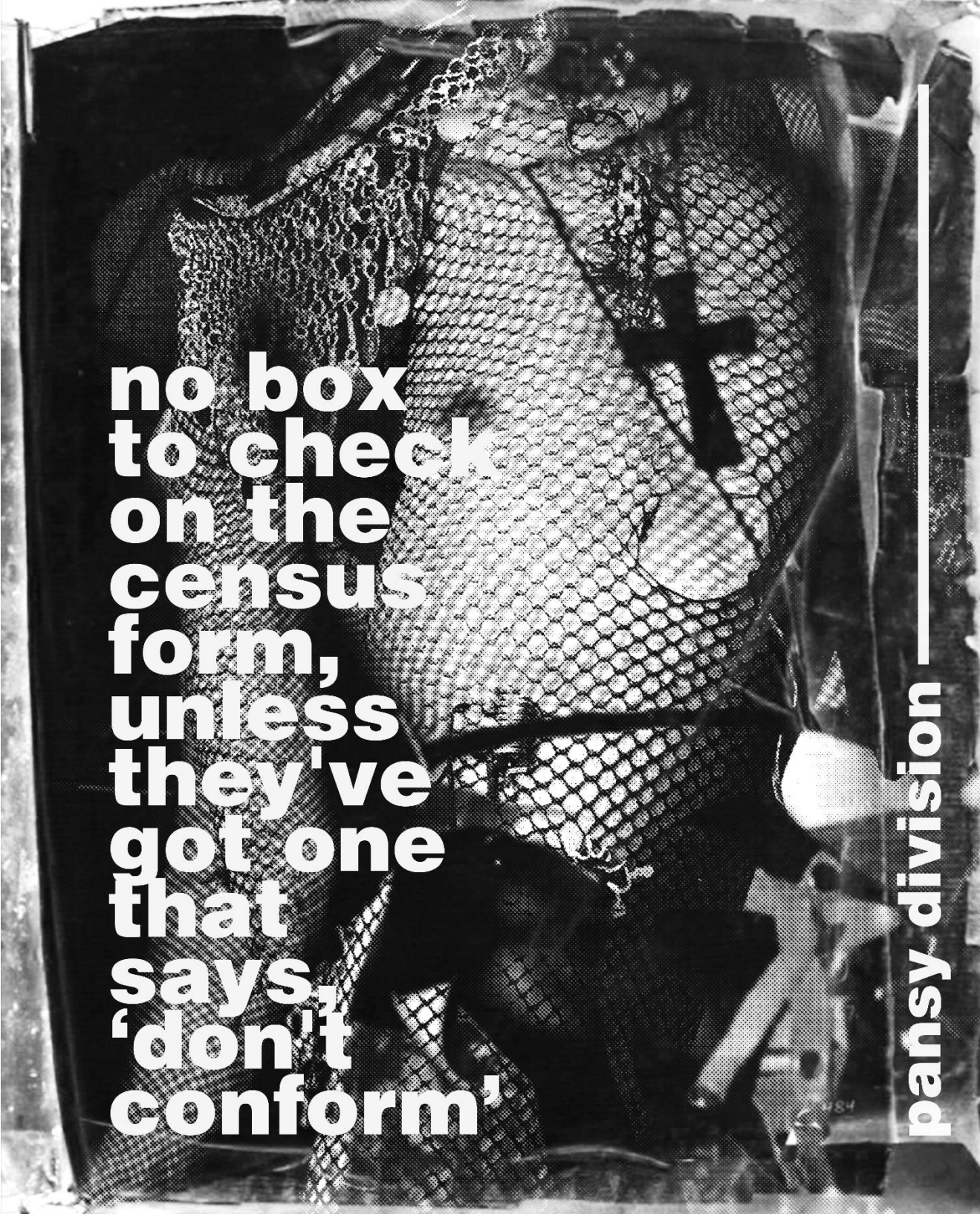
Woman loving woman (WLW) is a contemporary shorthand for women who are attracted to women, eg, lesbians, bisexuals, pansexuals. Man loving man is the male equivalent

X Queer Design by Andy Campbell is our top book pick for Pride month; An art book, that chronicles the history of visual LGBTQIA+ activism from signs and banners, to flags and motifs

Y Queer Youth Network is a UK non-profit focusing on working with LGBTQIA+ young people

Z ie/Zem is an example of an increasingly popular pronoun choice for non-binary, or gender non-conforming people, and falls under the category of a Neo Pronoun





**no box
to check
on the
census
form,
unless
they've
got one
that
says
'don't
conform'**

pansy division

Graphic designer, artist and occasional crowdsurfer, Ø Macioti (They/Them) is madly in love with anything packing a punch. Active part of the underground music scene for the past 11 years, Ø specializes in album artwork, concert flyers and merchandising enriched by DIY culture, high contrasts and hardcore punk art.

Ø can be found making art at www.instagram.com/upon_nothing

A Timeline of UK LGBT History

1960

1967

Sex between two men over 21 in private is decriminalised (in England and Wales, but not in the Navy or the Army)

1970

1972

First Pride held in London



1975

Liberal Party (now Lib Dem) are the first party to support LGBT rights

1980

1980

Sex between two men over 21 in private is decriminalised in Scotland

1981

Northern Ireland's criminalisation of same sex acts is found to be in violation of human rights

1982

Sex between two men over 21 in private decriminalised in Northern Ireland

1983

Gurney decriminalises sex between two men

1990

1990

First Pride event is held in Manchester

1990

Northern Ireland has first Pride parade

1990

Jersey decriminalises sex between two men



1992

World Health Organisation declassifies same sex attraction as a mental illness

1992

Isle of Man repeals sodomy laws but homosexuality is still illegal

1994

Isle of Man fully decriminalises homosexuality

1994

Age of consent in UK lowered to 18



1995

UK produces first piece of law in the world that prevents discrimination in employment or education for trans people

2000

2000

UK lifts ban on Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals in the Armed Forces

2001

Age of consent for gay men reduced to 16 and group sex is decriminalised

2000

Continued

2002
Equal adoption rights granted to same sex couples

2002
Goodwin case rules that trans people in the UK must be issued with new birth certificates

2003
Employment Equality Regulations make it illegal to discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual people in the workplace

2004
Civil Partnership Act passed meaning same sex couples have equal rights as straight couples

2006
Isle of Man equalised the age of consent



2007
Equality Act Regulations outlawed the discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

2007
Scotland grants equality to same sex couples for adopting and fostering

2008
Human Fertilisation and Embrology Act recognises same sex couples as the legal parents of children conceived through donated eggs, sperm, and embryos

2010

2010
Equality Act adds gender reassignment as a protected characteristic

2013
Marriage Act passed in England and Wales

2013
The first Trans Pride takes place in Brighton

*I now pronounce you,
wife and wife / husband
and husband*

2014
The first same sex marriage takes place

2016
Isle of Man legalises same sex marriage

2018
Same sex marriage is legalised in Jersey



2019
Government PSHE curriculum requires lessons to include acknowledgement of LGBT rights and protect the wellbeing of LGBT children

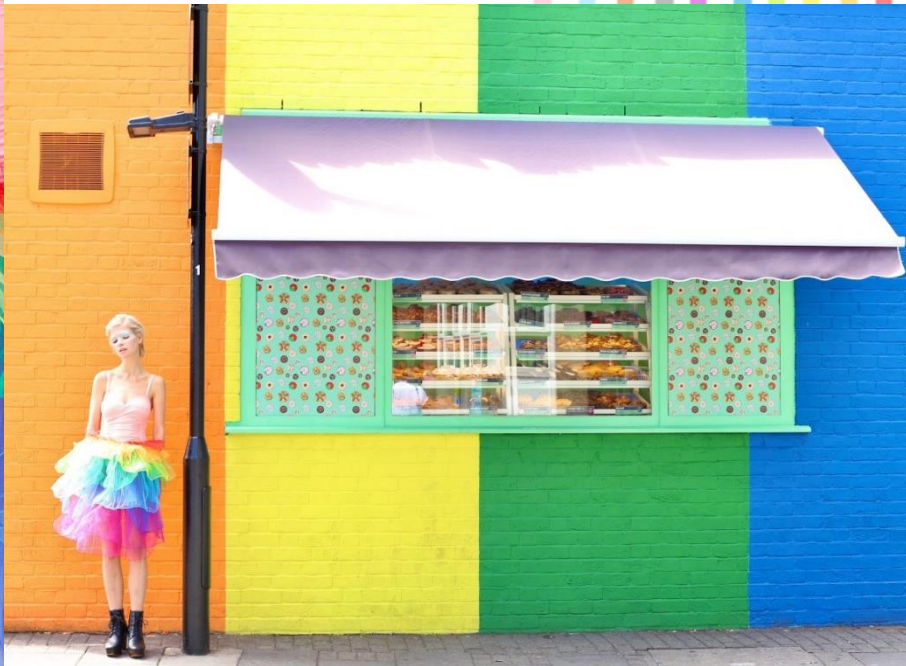
2019
The first Bisexual Pride takes place, it is the largest Bi gathering in history

2020

2020
Same sex marriage legalised in Northern Ireland

2021
The Census includes questions about sexual and gender identity for the first time

Hideco



My name is Hideco

I live in London over a decade and My original is from Tokyo, Japan. I'm interested in photography because I feel a photographer is like a designer who determines the timing of light and time. A good photo has a miracle and a luck at a time. I want to treasure every moment in camera. I also feel that life and photography are similar to take advantage of timing and moments from miracle or luck.

That's my inspiration.

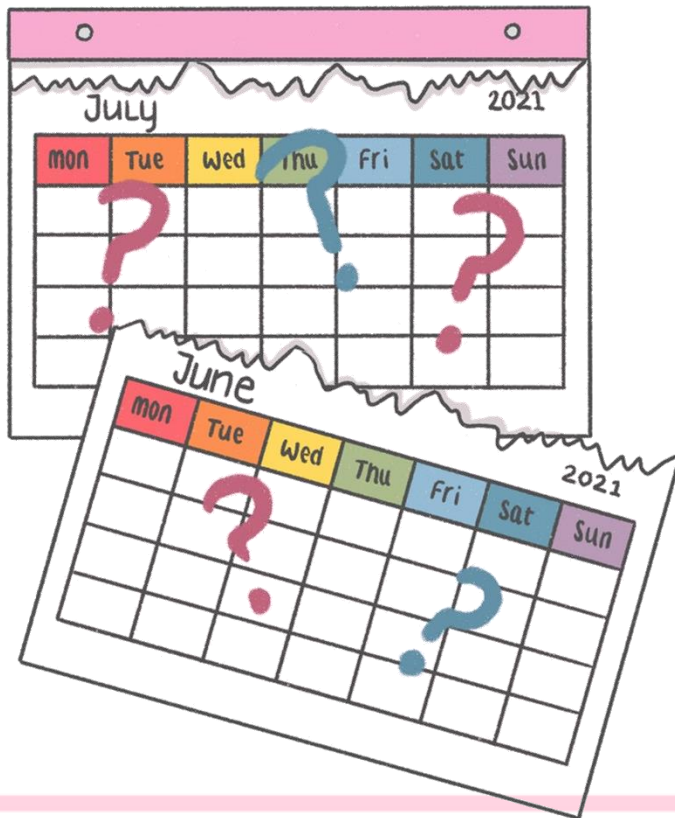
Where did the time go?

Kate McCaughey

A look at the phenomena of Queer temporality

In the majority of modern societies, there are socially and politically devised markers of what it means to age. When we begin to talk, we go to school to learn about the world and how to socialise with others. Once we hit puberty, we're allowed to learn even more, and we're expected to respond to these natural changes in our bodies in the ways that we interact with peers. We're encouraged to reach a certain point of education (but not too much) to get a socially acceptable job, meet a partner, get married and have children. From there we're pretty much occupied for a good 20 years or so before we're expected to start to slow down, pick up socially acceptable hobbies and unwind into our last years.

Many theorists have speculated on the difference between this chronology of heterosexual/cisgender people and queer people, calling it 'Queer Time'. Jack Halberstam's 2005 collection of essays *In A Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* says we should "try to think about queerness as an outcome of strange temporalities, imaginative life schedules, and eccentric economic practices". For many LGBTQIA+ people throughout history, and in many places now, there hasn't been the opportunity to follow the heteronormative structure of life within authentic lives (i.e., non-closeted).



Using the UK as an example, it was only in 1995 that it became illegal to discriminate against trans people in the workplace or education; before then, many more trans people would've been denied entry to colleges, universities and job opportunities than already do now. This would've resulted in financial instability from jobs that require less qualifications and pay less. In 2003 the same legislation appeared for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people. In the decade that followed, queer people were allowed to marry and adopt children. All of these markers of aging were not accessible to LGBTQIA+ people for so many years, and so the levels of maturity perceived by others differs.

But that's not to say this is purely inflicted by exclusion from heteronormativity.

Queer Time also tells us that many queer people live in a different chronology themselves; to be queer, means to exist in queerness of all aspects of life. With the potential of gaining awareness and comfort of one's sexuality far later in life, many people in their twenties, thirties etc find themselves in a 2nd adolescence; understanding crushes, wanting to date, learn about their likes, dislikes etc. Similarly, if a person transitions or begins to live as their authentic gender beyond their teenage years, there is the probability of feeling out of the expected timeline for your age, and often literally living through a 2nd physical puberty. This could obviously push back years of settling, marriage and children should the person choose them, but we have to remember that this is a system built by heterosexual people that we're expected to follow. I'm not saying there's anything wrong with this life path - I know it's what I would like personally - but it's wrong to assume that LGBTQIA+ people want to mimic heterosexuality. The point of queerness, for many, is deviating from all these norms, and acknowledging that everything is a choice, and there is no set way to live.

Obviously, from the lack of representation of LGBTQIA+ adults living outside of these norms, it can be hard to imagine how it looks, and many of us do aspire to the traditional heterosexual ways of doing things. However, it's important to remember that maturity and 'life goals' look different for all people, particularly LGBTQIA+ people. People are more likely to be promiscuous, be polyamorous, remain childless and work unconventional jobs. Some queer people find the idea of being married empowering - taking something heteronormative and being a part of it, normalising it and making it yours. But many don't want a part in it and prefer to create their own markers and milestones of what it means to be in love, rather than just pursuing what they're 'supposed' to want. Being queer, there is an understanding that everything you'll ever do will differ in many ways to what is expected of you, so why not have a bit of fun, and do exactly what you want?



Kate McCaughey (She/Her) is a writer based in the North. She writes poetry and articles, usually focusing on the LGBTQIA+ experience, contemporary social issues, classism and nature. She is currently working part-time to save up for a Masters in Publishing and Creative Writing, as well as (trying) to finish her first novel. When she's not busy working or typing, she's usually analysing people's birth charts, playing with her dog or thinking about making a cup of tea.

Instagram Questions Results

we asked, you answered

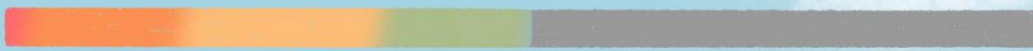


Is your sexuality / gender identity something you've discovered in the last 5 years?

Yes : 29

No : 21

If you 'came out' or 'come out' regularly in day to day life, rate your comfort level :



this was the average result of 32 votes.

What is your opinion on labels?

"They really helped me feel a sense of identity and community" @angryapricot_

"Labels are good for giving something a name if you're struggling to find your identity."
@nathuds98

"I like them; they help me understand my feelings."
@ed.does.art

they're good

"Not necessary but can help people feel valid on an individual scale. Can lead to gatekeeping and other issues within the community."
@emmalm1212

"They can be important in establishing boundaries but not necessary for self acceptance."
@lucyxcn

"Helpful for a sense of identity and belonging, but to be taken with a pinch of salt."
@bronte_cook

"Useful for some, limiting for others, leads to a lot of gatekeeping."
@autumnsystump

"Depends on the person! If they don't want to use a label its fine, and if they do - also fine!"
@p.aulinaisabel

"Personally don't feel too fussy about them but happy to use for others!"
@lauren__mcc

"I have found them restrictive but I've found that queer as an umbrella term feels really good."
@freya.grace

"They're useful though not (always) necessary, but they definitely have a real impact on everyday life."
@lillibethchung

"They're useful for communicating meaningful information, but not the be all and end all."
@elliemasterman

"They can be good! But sometimes microlabelling etc, can feel like it alienates."
@dinksdione

"At the end of the day, labels are just words we put onto experiences that already exist. I love some labels, but others don't seem to capture the nuance I feel."
@katealicemcc

"They're more restricting than liberating."
@quietsnina

not good

they're okay

What do you want the world to know about your queer life?

"It is possible to be bisexual, still date the opposite sex and be happy within your relationship."

@lucyxcn

"My 'straight' relationship is gayer than you think." @autumnsystump

"It's so beautiful."

@tib_tibtib

"I wish it were more exciting (laughing emoji)"

@nathuds98

"Life would be so much easier if people could just respect differences."

@ed.does.art

"Would anyone want to set me up with a pretty girl, because tinder isn't that fun"

@p.aulinaisabel

"Me (She/Her) and my partner (They/Them, assigned male at birth) are not a 'straight couple'"

@gingerjoanna

"Just because I'm with a straight guy doesn't mean I'm straight."

@lauren____mcc

"Queerness is so freeing but me being quietly queer gives me a lot of power, like I don't feel like I have to explain myself to the people around me and I like being a bit of a fruity mystery hahahah."

@freya.grace

"Just because I present as female doesn't mean I am."

@judeboylee

"Still bisexual despite being in a long-term relationship with a man!"

@elliemasterman

What are the most important things for heterosexual cisgender world to remember in Pride month?

"Be respectful and stay in their lane."

@angryapricot__

"Pride (or pride month) is more than just fun and rainbows."

@quiestnina

"Just because you don't understand it, doesn't make it fake."

@lucyxcm

"Its not for them."

@autumnsystump

"We exist every month of the year too."

@nathuds98

"Bi people aren't 'greedy' or 'indecisive' & respect pronouns!"

@ed.does.art

"There are members of the LGBT community in the world who are still severely oppressed."

@p.aulinaisabel

"Its not about you! Don't buy skittles and then use homophobic language lol."

@lauren____mcc

"They are guests in our spaces."

@freya.grace

"Pride is not for you, and engaging and being an ally is different to tokenisation. Let us speak."

@lillibethchung

"Actively include and uplift trans people in your pride events."

@elliemasterman

"It's queer! Not commercial and not an excuse for cis het people to get drunk."

@dinksdione

Trials and tribulations of a Non-Bi-nary

Anonymous

Being part of the LGBT+ community certainly isn't easy.

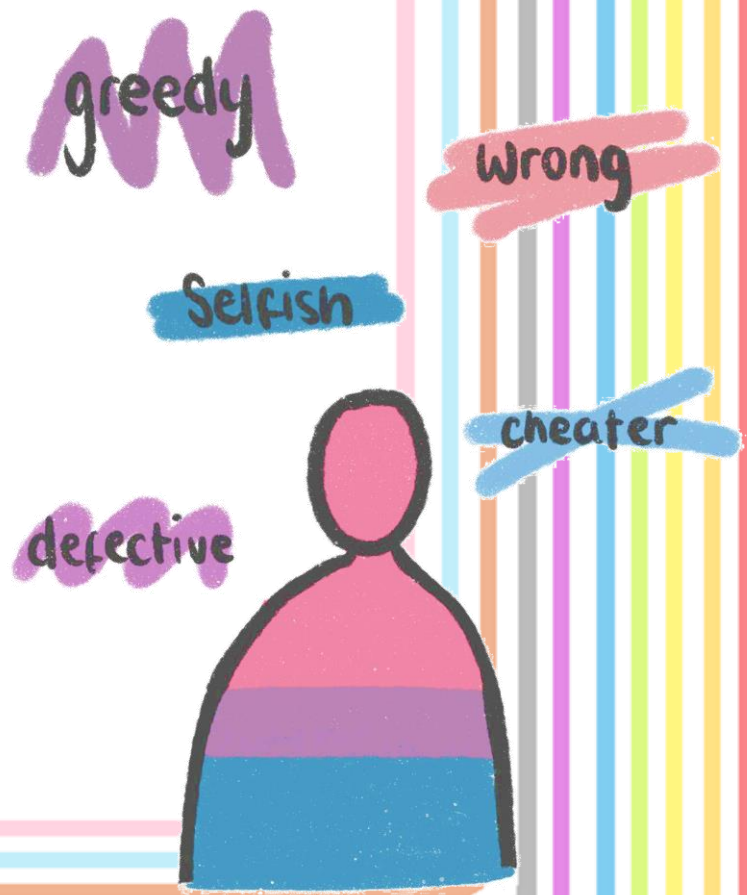
I'll never forget coming out with my sexuality. I was 16. My latest boyfriend at the time was bi and out and I remember sitting through an onslaught of complaints by one of my "friends" about how she disagreed with bisexuality. Listening to how it was "wrong" and "selfish" only to wait until she'd finished to tell her that I myself was also "wrong" and "greedy." I don't remember her ever apologising, just brushing it off and trying to dig herself out of a hole.

I remember being at a family party with previously mentioned boyfriend and hearing how disgusting he was and how I "didn't need someone like that" in my life. How he would "cheat on me because people like that do". Having to bite my tongue because I didn't want to out myself to those people.

In the same year, my friend's boyfriend (who admittedly was an asshole in general) found out about my sexuality and told my lifelong friend to "stay away from people like that". I played it off but inside it hurt. Thankfully that friend stayed by me and now we frequent gay clubs together (minus the burden of the shitty boyfriend).

A few years after those events, I remember making a coming out post on Facebook along the lines of "I'm bi, this is me, if that offends you then that's a you problem *insert sassy emoji*" of course it did offend. I had a family member message me to say "how dare you say that your family wouldn't be supportive. Why don't you consider other people's feelings?!" Which I'm still angry about to this day. My family were and still are biphobic, and I've lived through first-hand experience of it. On the other hand, I had people messaging to say they were so proud of me etc... when they were the same people at the family party berating my boyfriend years prior.

I'm out as bi to just about everyone now, but my close family still pretend that I'm not who I am. Most days I can cope with that, but I can't help but feel resentment when I see happy coming out videos and posts. My experiences have made me bitter to other people's happiness and I hate myself for it. Of course, I'm so happy for those people who can come out and feel loved, I just wish it was a universal experience.



As for my conflict with gender, that came at a much younger age. I always felt different. In the words of my mother, I was her girlboy because I was girly but always liked to hang around with the boys and had to play with whatever they did. I rejected dolls and anything else that vaguely resembled being maternal but liked girly clothing. I didn't see anything wrong with this or even question it until I got to school one day, and my friends decided that they didn't want to play with girls anymore. Thankfully I found some new friends fairly quickly and tried to blend in as a girly girl for a good few years.

For a while in my teenage years when I was in high school, I was always told I was very camp and for a good while, I secretly identified as a gay man. It threw a spanner in the works when I realised, I actually liked women too.

When I finished sixth form, I started cross dressing and justified it to my parents as "it's just comfier because it's baggier". Of course, this led to a lot of comments from strangers about "what is that?" Or "is that a boy or a girl?" With a lot of stares or laughs. Eventually it just became more comfortable to wear typically feminine clothing, and to be honest, now that's how I prefer to present.

A lot of people are confused by nonbinary and think it's just a way to be "quirky" but I've always felt a deep sense of dysphoria about who I'm supposed to be. Maybe it's because of such narrow boxes of expectation that we place on gender roles or maybe it's something else. But I've always felt that I'm not a woman and being called such makes me uncomfortable. To be clear, I don't dislike femininity or see it as a negative, I just can't identify with it.

I'm not out about this and feel that it is only something that I will discuss with few trusted friends for fear of how it will be responded to.

At the end of the day, I am who I am and as much as I have tried previously, I cannot change that. All I can do now is move on with my life and try to make amends with myself. Experiences hurt and often I think life would have been easier if I wasn't who I am. It is for this reason that we need pride. We need a space to openly be who we are with others doing the same. We need to feel like we aren't alone and that we aren't in some way defective. The love and acceptance of being in a space filled with others is what keeps people thriving and that is so important.



Planning Pride

We spoke to founder of the *Foothills Rainbow Connection*, Marissa Angel Johnson, to find out how Pride events happen.

What initially motivated you to organise Pride events/parades?

I was 15 when I moved to Victoria, British Columbia, and that was when I came out. I became involved in pride when I was in high school. I worked for AIDS Vancouver Island and my local school board to support and educate my peers about sexual health, safer partying, and how to create diverse communities.

I moved to France after this and was fortunate enough to be involved in the community in the Rhône-Alpes. It was fascinating to see how even though our communities were so different in demographic and language, our struggles were so similar. When I saw the flag on the Bastille, I realized how my own communities back home had so much growing to do.

Coming back to Victoria, I became the Pride chair at my college, and became Mr Gay Vancouver Island for drag. This time cemented my path for being an advocate for the community. I worked with a lot of passionate people who really taught me how to find my voice and use it to raise up the stories of others.

Before leaving Alberta and having all these experiences that I mentioned, I didn't even know what a lesbian was. I came back to Okotoks in 2011, and I was shocked to see that nothing had changed in the town that I grew up in. I had just experienced the rest of the world progressing to be more inclusive, and could not believe how lacking the town was. It was like reverse culture shock. This is what has motivated me to stay active and vocal in my community. It has been hard work over the last decade, and it is cool to see how the town has been evolving with us.



What type of things did you have to consider when creating events specifically for the LGBTQ+ community? Were there many challenges, or surprises, specifically being in a small town?

The biggest surprise to me was how people were asking for things to happen, but weren't there when it was time to get involved. I don't know whether it was fear, complacency, or lack of interest. I knew to expect a fight from the municipality, the churches, those historically hateful groups, and honestly some of our neighbours, but I didn't expect to have to carry so much on my own. That isn't to say that I don't have support or am doing this alone, but to have a community in a small town, you need to have people who are vocal. It is not fair to expect people to carry that weight of diversifying entire communities alone. It takes allies, businesses, and people all working together to make this happen.

(also, logistically, always make sure you have event insurance)

For you, what do you think is the most important thing people remember at Pride events?

I think the takeaway for most people is the atmosphere. Creating a welcoming and warm environment is what is most necessary. Whether it is a picnic in a park, or a huge festival, people take away how it made them feel. It is okay to start small and keep things casual. If that is what you need to start mobilizing your community, that is what you need to do. If you take on more than you can handle as a community, you risk losing that feeling of safety, inclusivity, and celebration.

I know you've also dabbled in drag - what drew you into the community and motivated you to give it a go?

Honestly, it just kind of accidentally happened. Me and some friends went as the Jonas brothers for Halloween in grade 12, and then we went to the bar. We just started doing drag together after that, we brought friends and started a drag group and it was all very organic. It just happened.

What's your favourite thing about performing?

Probably the community that comes with doing drag. It's good to have a creative outlet, and also a chosen family. Drag seems to check those boxes for people in the queer community.

Right now, virtual spaces are obviously important to performers. I would invite people to search out those shows and groups online and get involved. Things will get back to normal eventually, and it is up to us to make sure our drag communities can be there when it happens.

Finally, what's a message you'd want to send to our queer readers this pride month?

Just remember that even though pride looks different, you can still have pride within yourself, your life, and with the folks around you. Keep this Pride season special to you, and be proud of who you've been, who you are, and who you will be.

Happy Pride everyone!



PRIDE PLAYLIST

Wontcha Come On Home / Joan Armatrading
@gingerjoanna

Son of a Preacher Man / Dusty Springfield
@gingerjoanna

Girls / Beatrice Eli
@tib_tibtib

Bad as the Boys / Tove LO, ALMA
@astili

Middle of Love / Jake Wesley Rogers
@takecare.zine

God This Feels Good / Isaac Dunbar
@hollyberry_x

Kiss My First / Dream Nails
@_theladydontmind

Boyfriend / Marika Hackman
@_theladydontmind

It's a Sin / Pet Shop Boys
@ed.does.art

Under Pressure / David Bowie, Queen
@lauren__mcc

I Like That / Janelle Monae
@chloelbower

I Wanna Be Your Girlfriend / Ezra Furman
@Katealicemcc

Forlorn Leghorn / Crywank
@ooshalia



Scan Me