

Everyone is welcome

QUEER

Magazine

2nd Anniversary
Issue

Jay



Coyote



Richard Hopper



Radical Joy: Resistance

Photography by: Hann Solo Photos

Queer Business Spotlight
London, ON:

Rainbow Certified Pg 18



July, 2026

Be Bold. Be Unique. Be You.



QUEER HIVE
— MAGAZINE —

Here for a lifetime! A space dedicated to sharing real stories, supporting the community, and illuminating every form of queer expression.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends, Supporters, Partners, Sponsors, Creatives, and Community Members,

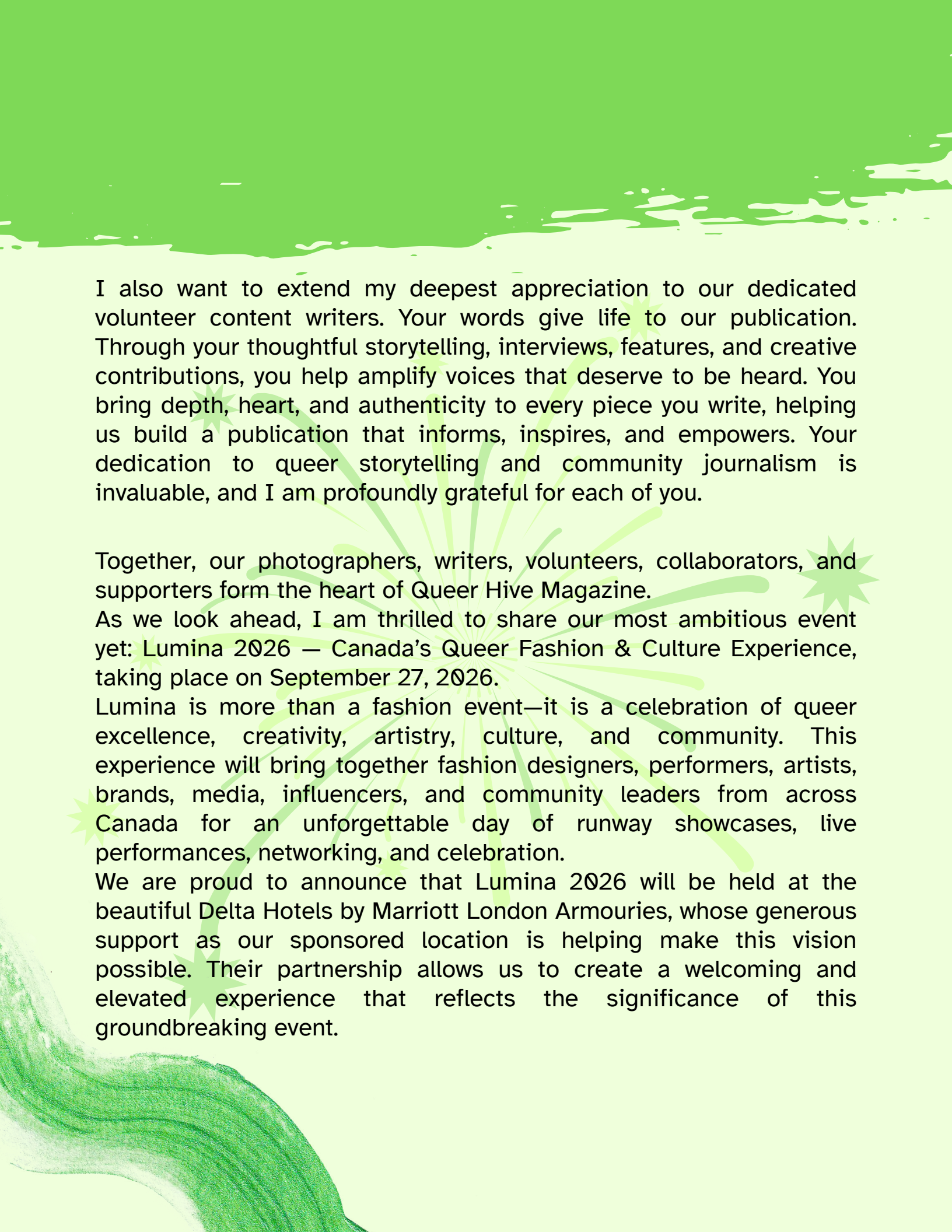
As the founder of Queer Hive Magazine, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride as I reflect on how far our community has come and the incredible people who continue to help bring our vision to life.

Queer Hive Magazine was founded with a powerful purpose: to create a platform that celebrates queer voices, stories, creativity, and culture. We believe in the importance of representation and in creating spaces where people feel seen, valued, and empowered to express their authentic selves. Every article, photo shoot, interview, and event we produce is rooted in that mission.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary individuals who dedicate their time, talent, and passion to helping our community thrive.

I would like to offer special recognition and heartfelt thanks to Hann Solo Photos, our dedicated volunteer photographer. To Hann Solo, thank you for your unwavering commitment, generosity, and incredible artistry. Your photography does more than capture images—it tells stories, preserves emotion, and highlights the beauty, strength, and authenticity of the people within our community. Your photography skills are truly amazing, and your work continues to elevate Queer Hive Magazine in meaningful and inspiring ways.





I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to our dedicated volunteer content writers. Your words give life to our publication. Through your thoughtful storytelling, interviews, features, and creative contributions, you help amplify voices that deserve to be heard. You bring depth, heart, and authenticity to every piece you write, helping us build a publication that informs, inspires, and empowers. Your dedication to queer storytelling and community journalism is invaluable, and I am profoundly grateful for each of you.

Together, our photographers, writers, volunteers, collaborators, and supporters form the heart of Queer Hive Magazine.

As we look ahead, I am thrilled to share our most ambitious event yet: Lumina 2026 — Canada's Queer Fashion & Culture Experience, taking place on September 27, 2026.

Lumina is more than a fashion event—it is a celebration of queer excellence, creativity, artistry, culture, and community. This experience will bring together fashion designers, performers, artists, brands, media, influencers, and community leaders from across Canada for an unforgettable day of runway showcases, live performances, networking, and celebration.

We are proud to announce that Lumina 2026 will be held at the beautiful Delta Hotels by Marriott London Armouries, whose generous support as our sponsored location is helping make this vision possible. Their partnership allows us to create a welcoming and elevated experience that reflects the significance of this groundbreaking event.



Lumina represents everything Queer Hive Magazine stands for: visibility, inclusion, creativity, and the power of community. It is a space where queer talent will shine, where stories will be shared, and where authentic self-expression will be celebrated without limits.

To everyone who has supported Queer Hive Magazine—our volunteers, contributors, sponsors, partners, and community members—thank you. Your belief in our mission continues to inspire me every day.

Together, we are building something truly meaningful. Together, we are creating spaces where queer voices are not only heard but celebrated.

I look forward to celebrating with all of you at Lumina 2026 and continuing this journey of empowerment, creativity, and community.

With heartfelt gratitude and pride,

Barry Lawrence

Founder, Queer Hive Magazine

Lumina 2026 — Canada's Queer Fashion & Culture Experience



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Queer Business Spotlight: Rainbow Certified

By Rachel & Sarah **18**

Fierce AND Fabulous

By Izalea Bradaigh **20**

Gay Men 50+

Reinvention at 60: A New Life at Gay, High and Long

By: Michael Scheter **23**

You're Not Stuck: You're Negotiating with Yourself and Losing

By: Rick Clemons **25**

Defying the Boxes

By Michael Shawn Sanders **27**

Queer Marriage

Love Transcends Time: The Story of Ron and Lloyd

The Marry Men **30**

Non-fiction: Essays, Reviews and

Articles

Celebrating Diversity, Community and Inclusion

By Jonathan Quinones **39**

My Ultimate Resistance

By: Benji White **42**

Join Your Own Joyride

By VJ Prime **46**

Radical Joy is Resistance

By Scott Gregory Bell **49**

We Won't Stop: Radical Joy, Resistance, and The Revolution of Being Ourselves

By: Tyson Pete **52**

We Won't Stop Wanting: Queer Pleasure as Resistance

By Kai Demaeyer **55**

Witchcraft

Basic Spells: Purification, Protection, Healing & Prosperity

By Adrien Clarke **60**

The Journey to Loving Yourself for Who You Are

By Betsy Marie **63**

My Path as a Gay Witch

By Thred Ardor **65**

Bonestone and Earthflesh: A Deck Review

By Jamieson Wolf **69**

Non-fiction: Essays, Reviews and Articles Contd.

Boundless Feminity

By John O'Keefe **72**

Izalea Does Everything: Volume 4

By Izalea Bradaigh **75**

Advice with a Tab of Acid

By Tabitha Acidz **77**

Things I didn't know when I chose Noah

By Noah **82**

Raw & Unshamed: when "nothing" is a lie

By Skip Sams **86**

Design as Defiance: Framing Radical Joy and Non-Binary Expression in Private Spaces

By Daniel Cayer **90**

Out of the Office, Into Your Power: Why Barbados is Our Ultimate Sandbox for Radical Joy

By Tasha Morrison **94**

Radical Joy: Learning to Love Messy Life	
By Stalin Fernandez Gil	103
Resist Normative Relationship Expectation	
By Skyler Fury	105
LGBTQIA+ Book Review Feature	
By True Voice Review	107

Fiction: Literature and Poetry

Poem	
By Cari King	110
I Am a House Built on a Border	
By Nick Harpham	111
This is Me	
By Nelson Baker	115
Eternal & One Day	
By Tiff	116

X-Rated: Explicit Works and Images

D.T. Electricity	
By O	120

QUEER HIVE



MAGAZINE
PRESENTS

A CANADIAN QUEER FASHION AND CULTURE EXPERIENCE

LUMINA

2026

LIVE ON STAGE
AT THE MIDWAY

PERFORMING
SONGS FROM
HIS NEW *ALBUM*



FASHION . ART . PERFORMANCE . COMMUNITY .



THE MIDWAY



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



2:00PM – 7:00PM

A HIGH FASHION RUNWAY EXPERIENCE FEATURING **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**,
DESIGNERS, WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS, AND CULTURAL INNOVATORS.



HIGH FASHION
RUNWAY SHOWCASE
DESIGNERS
MODELS. ARTISTRY.



NETWORK.
COLLABORATE.
ELEVATE.
CONNECT WITH VIP
BUYERS & INFLUENCERS.



BE SEEN.
BE HEARD.
BE REMEMBERED.
ELEVATE YOUR BRAND.
MAKE AN IMPACT.



TICKETS AT
Eventright.ca

VISIT

luminacanadaqueerfashioncultureexperience.ca



QUESTIONS?
queerhivemagazine@gmail.com

Welcome to Lumina 2026 — Canada's Queer Fashion & Culture Experience



Presented by Queer Hive Magazine, Lumina 2026 is a bold celebration of queer fashion, art, performance, and community happening on September 27, 2026 in London, Ontario.



We are currently seeking:

- Queer Fashion Designers to showcase their collections
 - Queer Vendors to feature and sell their products
 - Models to walk the runway
- Midway Performers (drag, music, dance, burlesque, spoken word, and more)

Lumina is more than a fashion show — it's a platform to celebrate creativity, visibility, and self-expression within the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Want to be part of it? Visit our website:
luminacanadaqueerfashioncultureexperience.ca

Join us and be part of something unforgettable.
Be Seen. Be Heard. Be Remembered. Be Lumina



Private 1:1 Location by appointment only
Muse Beauty Bar in Wortley Village
130 Briscoe St E, London, On
Instagram: @they.spa
Facebook: They Spa
Email: hannah.theyspa@gmail.com
BOOKING APP: Link in IG Bio

**Eyebrow Wax, Tint,
Lamination
Eyelash Lift & Tint**

**Full Body Massage
Full Body Waxing (no
bikini areas at this
time)
Facials**

**Pedicures
Builder Gel Manicures**

They Spa was founded in 2020 during Aesthetics school here in London, Ontario. I fell in love with helping folks feel at home in their body, and found there was a lack of safe spaces for fellow queers to go to for aesthetics. Six years later I am still loving this journey and look forward to meeting more wonderful clients!

Custom Handmade Press-On Nail Sets





ABOUT ME / THE BUSINESS / VISION :

Hann Solo Photos was created during Fine Art College in 2019 (Fanshawe, London, ON). I studied multiple art disciplines during that certificate program, and one class that I particularly loved was the photography program. I used to model, so it was refreshing to be on the other side of the lens.

The business name comes from my drag performer name, Hann Solo, which is named after my name (Hannah) and gives a nod to Star Wars *cue light saber noise*

Services I Offer:

A lot of things!!!

I'm super flexible and love to work with fellow creatives. I love trying new skills and exploring new themes and concepts.

A few of my specialties & favourite styles are:

Portraits, Outdoor Photography, Indoor Backdrop Photography, Branding Photoshoots, Alternative, Activism, Art

Contact Info:

Please feel free to reach out for any inquiries at all! More of my portfolio can be viewed on my Instagram & Facebook

Email: hanncreates@gmail.com

Instagram: @hannsolophotos

Facebook: Hann Solo Photos

Thank you so much to those that have supported my journey so far and are staying tuned in for more!

Venus D-L



Wonder Tyts



Faedrawyn



Jerry Atrix



Richard Hopper



JAY

Photo credit Hann Solo Photo



"My name is Jay, my pronouns are they/she/he. I identify as bisexual and genderfluid. I enjoy a plethora of hobbies including, but not limited to: Supernatural, MTG, rock climbing, dancing, crocheting, and board games.

I have thought about starting up a crocheting business in the past but never had the guts to commit. I enjoy whimsical things a lot, including mushrooms, mermaids, and fairies!

During pride month, I enjoy going to all of the events that I can. I am very grateful for the friends who have introduced me to more pride events, and the friends that I made at/because of those pride events."



COYOTE

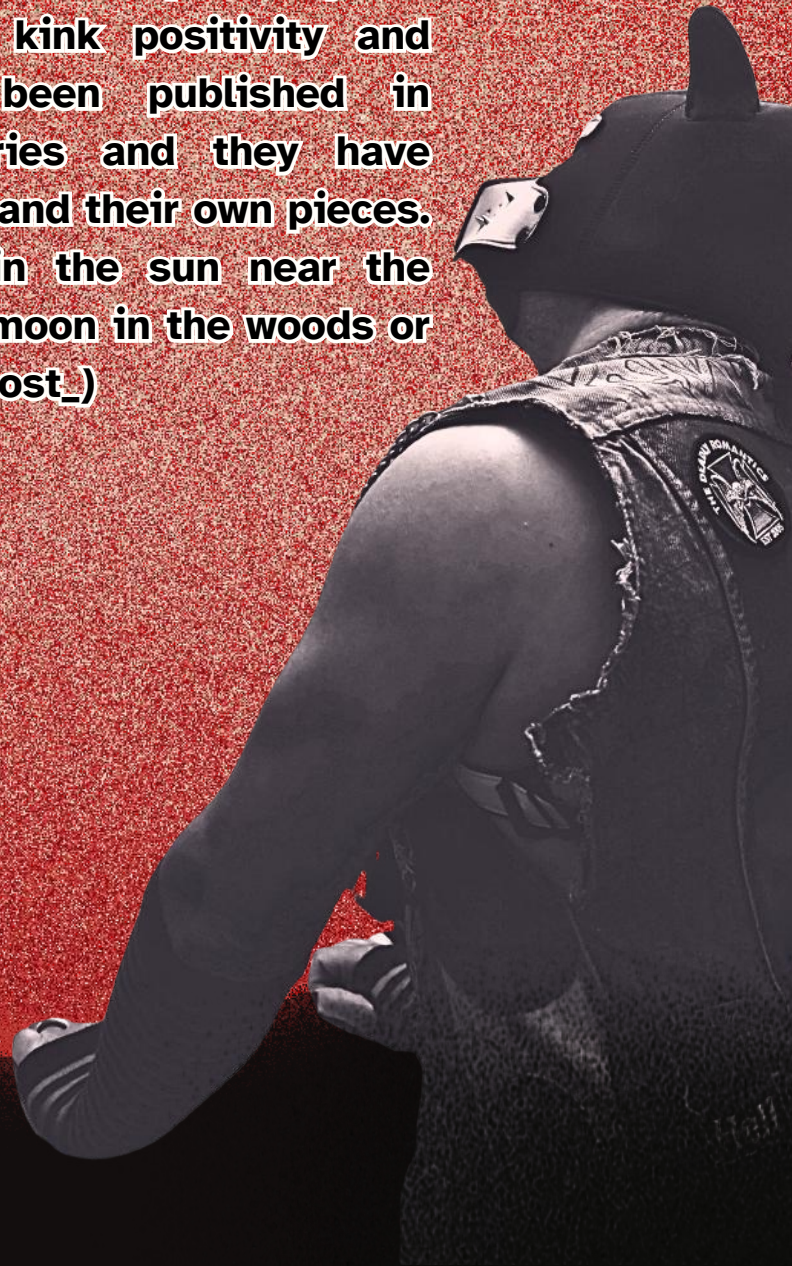
Coyote (They/Them) is a 47 year old, punkrock, Métis, Two Spirit, pansexual artist, photographer and figure model and former punk rock "Frontman" from Windsor, Ontario.

Photo credit Hann Solo Photo



Growing up Coyote was a sensitive, kind little kid who always knew they were different, always found connection and understanding in both the masculine and feminine as well as deep connection in nature and the wild. These aspects eventually came together to form how they express themselves, how they create, and how they walk their path now. Coyote is deeply involved in the leather community and kink community and as a Pup Player, has formed the Pups of Windsor and Area group to provide a safe, social and educational space for pup and pet players in their region to come together.

Coyote's art and expression focuses primarily on mental health, body, sex and kink positivity and awareness. Their work has been published in magazines, exhibited in galleries and they have modeled for artists, class rooms and their own pieces. You can find Coyote basking in the sun near the water's edge, howling under the moon in the woods or on their IG account (@coyotes_ghost_)



RICHARD HOPPER

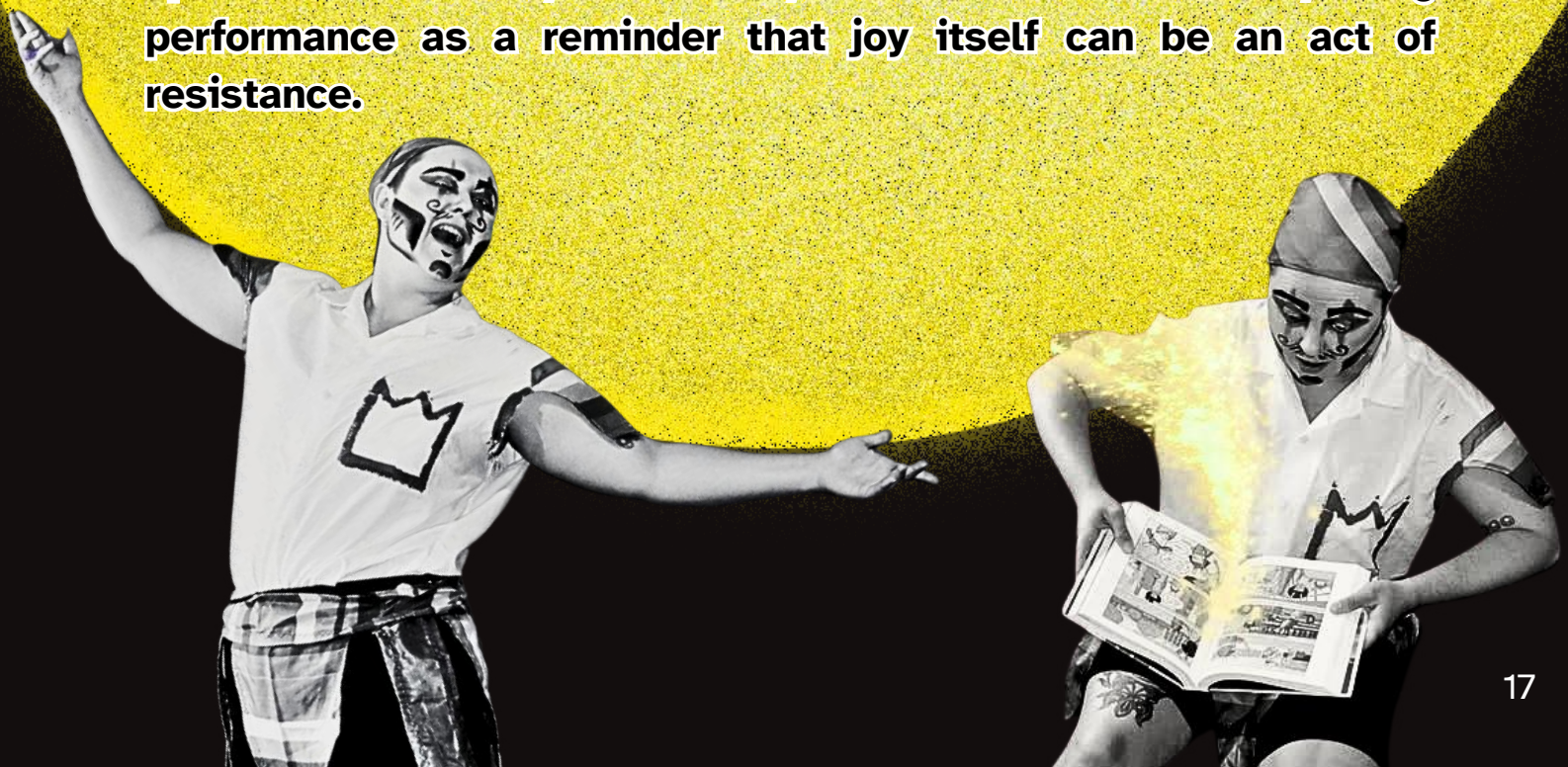
Richard Hopper is a London, Ontario theatrical drag king known for his expressive, heart-on-his-sleeve performances. This gentleman struts onto the stage with infectious energy, aiming to sweep audiences off their feet through passionate storytelling, playful charm, and rhythmic, joyful prancing. A true song chameleon, Richard transforms his look, character, and aesthetic to match each performance, though he is particularly drawn to romantic songs with a touch of edge. The spirit of Richard Hopper is deeply connected to my belief in radical joy. As someone who has navigated mental health struggles, radical joy has become a foundation of my personal philosophy. Reclaiming joy can be a powerful act of resilience, and Richard emerged during a time when I needed more fun, creativity, and community in my life



Photo credit Hann Solo Photo

Drag offered all of those things and continues to do so. With its endless opportunities for growth, self-expression, and skill-building, it remains an ongoing source of excitement and fulfillment. In both drag and everyday life, I encourage people to “be your silliest self.” Embracing silliness invites a sense of childlike wonder that creates a unique and meaningful kind of joy. For this look, I drew inspiration from the Lost Boys in Peter Pan, who symbolize radical joy, imagination, and resistance for me. Their refusal to let go of playfulness, even in the face of uncertainty reflects the values that inspire both Richard and my approach to life.

Radical joy does not erase grief or hardship; it exists alongside them. Finding moments of happiness while navigating challenges can be a profound act of strength. In my experience, this is where the drag community truly shines. Through celebrating one another’s talents, accomplishments, and individuality, we create spaces where joy can flourish despite personal struggles or the difficulties unfolding in the world around us. Richard Hopper is my way of contributing to that spirit of celebration, connection, and collective resilience, using performance as a reminder that joy itself can be an act of resistance.



Queer Business Spotlight

Rainbow Certified

We're Rachael and Sarah, the wives behind Rainbow Certified, a queer-owned small business based in London, Ontario. Our story began in Banff, Alberta, where we met through mutual friends while Rachael was visiting Canada on a working holiday visa from England. What started as a simple connection quickly grew into something much bigger. Over the years, we've navigated long-distance across continents, lived in multiple countries together, traveled the world, and built a life side by side.

Along the way, we discovered a shared passion for creativity, community, and celebrating what makes people unique. That passion eventually became Rainbow Certified.



We started Rainbow Certified because we wanted to create something that reflected the values we hold close: authenticity, visibility, inclusion, and Pride. As members of the LGBTQ+ community ourselves, we know how meaningful it can be to see yourself represented. We also know that Pride doesn't begin and end in June. It's something worth celebrating every day of the year.

Since 2020, Rainbow Certified has created apparel, accessories, enamel pins, keychains, tote bags, pet accessories and so much more. Designed to help people express themselves proudly and unapologetically. Every product we create is inspired by the belief that visibility matters and that everyone deserves to feel seen, welcomed, and celebrated.

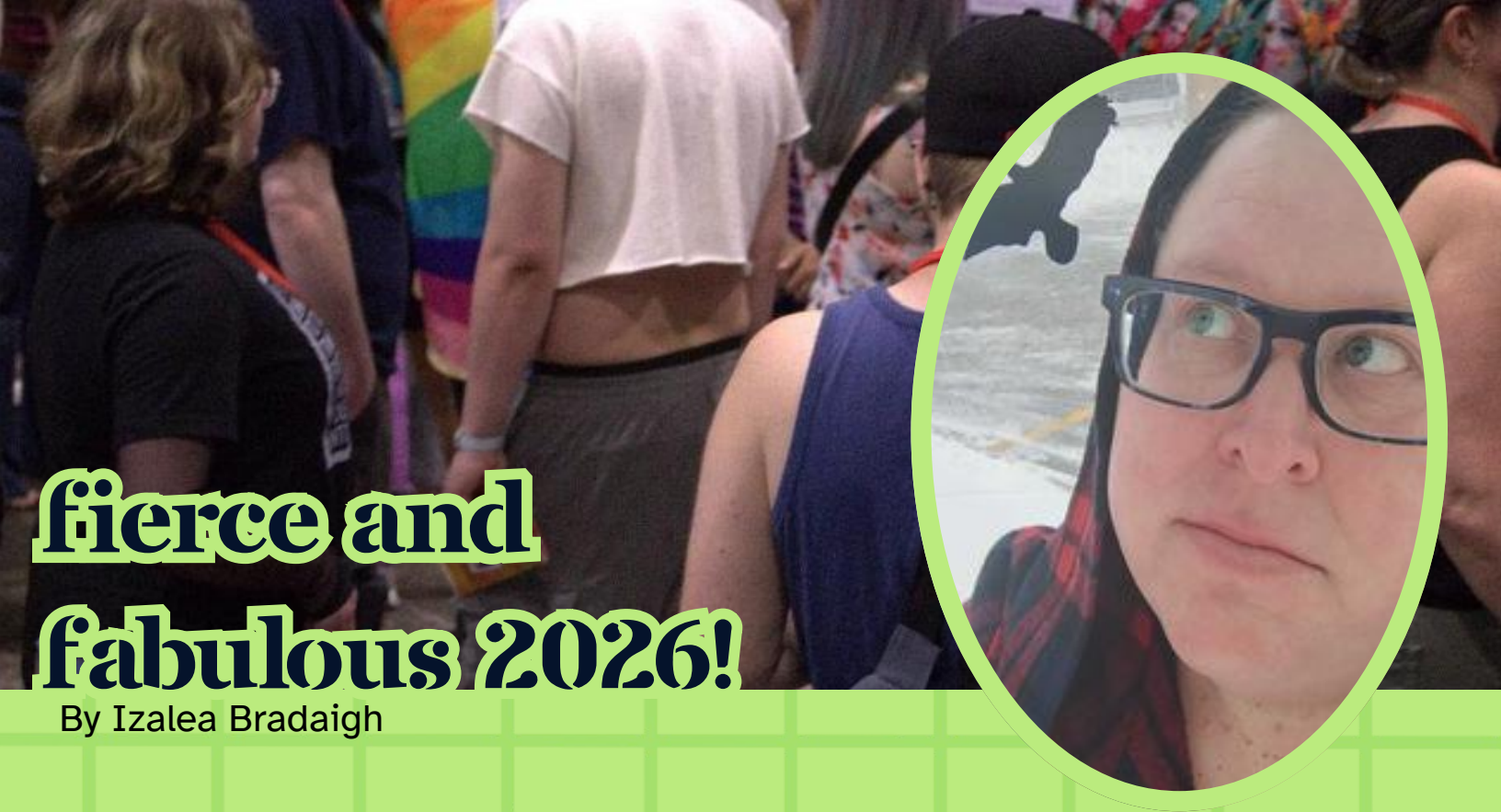
Like many small businesses, what people see online is only a small part of the story. Behind every order is the two of us designing products, packing shipments, answering customer messages, attending markets, brainstorming new ideas, and occasionally being supervised by Willow, our English Cocker Spaniel and unofficial Chief Happiness Officer.

Building Rainbow Certified together has been one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives. It has allowed us to combine our love for creativity with our desire to make a positive impact in our community. More than anything, we're proud to have created a brand that helps people celebrate who they are and feel connected to others who share similar experiences.

At its heart, Rainbow Certified is about more than products. It's about representation, community, and creating a world where people can feel comfortable being exactly who they are. We're honoured to be a small part of that journey for so many of our customers.

After all, Pride isn't just a celebration—it's a way of showing up in the world. And we believe that's something worth celebrating every day.





fierce and fabulous 2026!

By Izalea Bradaigh

Back at the start of Pride month this year I had the opportunity to go to a fascinating expo at the Toronto Convention Centre. With drag performers and booths featuring dozens of queer artists, activists, and crafters; it was sure to be wild and fun. Plus, it was Pride Month, and I had been waiting for this since the dark depths of winter.

To sum up: I was excited.

Now, you all came with me to the Big Queer Wedding Expo as I made my way to that glorious pink building in the heart of Toronto. But that was far more intimate; no less queer and joyful mind you, but it wasn't what I would call big. And it was perfect that way.

But this was at the convention center. A place I have gone for things like the Oddities expo or FanExpo in years past. I had no idea what to expect nor did I even know how many folks had purchased tickets or how many folks had signed up for a booth. Queer Hive got a booth though, and that meant I, your humble trans reporter, was given a VIP pass to go and take pictures and bug drag royalty for a few minutes.

I did my thing where I film b-roll footage on my ride in while I'm carrying all my gear. I had my borrowed camera that I didn't really know how to work, and I remembered to pack myself a lunch this time. Being diabetic I should be better at that, but I am not. On this day I killed the prep work entirely though, so it was starting well.

It was another early morning for me, but I was bright eyed, bushy tailed, and looked like the tremendous goober I am. I even had my meds and took some Advil beforehand. I know I'm going on about it but seriously; I was on it.



The trip into Toronto was different because they decided to do track maintenance that weekend so no train for me. But they had a bus that went direct to Union so why am I complaining?

It was a super short trip to the convention centre because it's right next to Union, which was nice. Honestly, the best trip I've had in years. Peak convenience, no notes, a real 'let's go' feeling to start the day.

But enough about me, I know you guys are here for the drag, for the glamour and camp. And there was no disappointment here.

I was still on the street, not even into the event yet, and there were gorgeous kings and queens already strutting their stuff. Showing off the sequins and the hair and again; it was going to be a good day.

What followed was the requisite ticket collecting, registering at the desk, and being generally recognized as a media person. I do think media people need their own badge next year, but that's just me. I want a fancy special badge is all; can you blame a girl for trying?

**Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca**

Gay Men 50+



If we, as older queer men, want more age-positive narratives in 2SLGBTQIA+ culture, then it is up to us to start changing the narrative.

Queer Hive welcomes older gay men!

**Email us at
queerhivemagazine@gmail.com.**

Reinvention at 60:

A New Life at Gay, High and Long

By: Michael Scheter



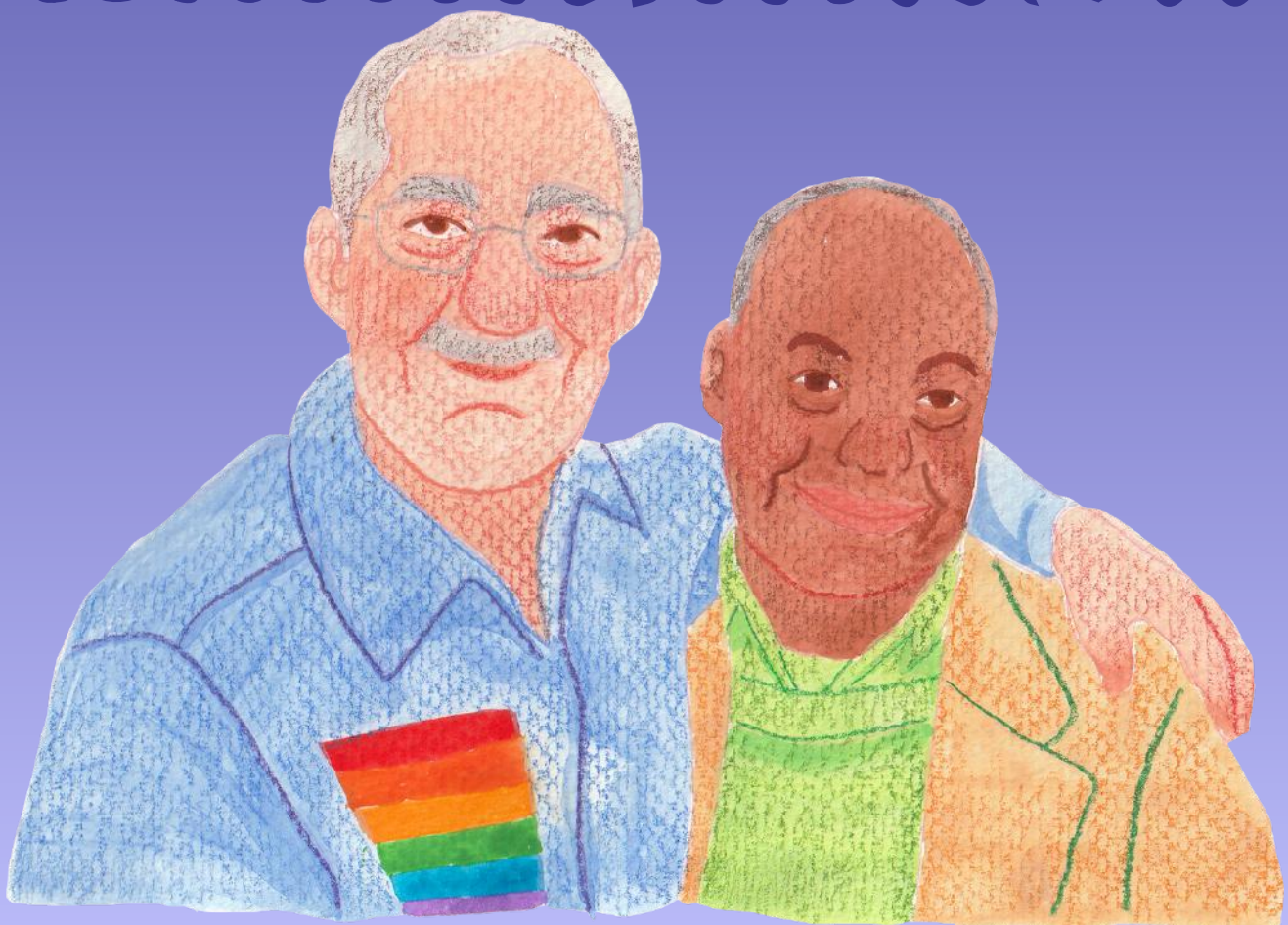
Reinvention is not a crisis. It is a choice. Queer people understand this better than most. Our lives bend, twist, and bloom in ways that rarely follow a straight path. We grow in cycles. We shed what no longer fits. We create new versions of ourselves because staying small has never been an option. As I turn 60, I am learning that the most powerful reinvention is the one that lets you expand into the life you always imagined.

For 35 years, I lived in the suburbs raising a family at a time when two dads were still a novelty. We were the only queer family at school events. We were the ones people watched before they learned to welcome us. We built a home anyway. We created joy anyway. That chapter shaped me. It taught me how to love without apology and how to stand steady in spaces that were not designed for us.

I could feel a shift inside me, not because anything was missing, but because I was ready for something new to unfold.

My answer came in the form of a downtown apartment between Gay Street and Long Street, right off High. It feels like the universe handed me a map and said, "This way." After years of living a life that was full in its own way, I now live in a place that reads like a queer poem. Gay. Long. High. Identity. Longevity. Elevation. Every time I step outside, I feel the city pulsing with possibility. I feel myself waking up again.

This move is not about starting over. It is about starting fully. More joy. More community. More curiosity. More nights that feel alive. More mornings that feel peaceful. More of the life that had been waiting quietly inside me, ready to unfold. At 60, I'm building on the life I already lived fully, letting it open into something new. My story is queer, but the message is universal. We all outgrow versions of ourselves. We all get stuck in roles that once fit but no longer do. We all deserve to choose again. Reinvention is not selfish. It is human. It is the moment you stop waiting for permission and start living the life that feels like yours. I stand at Gay, Long and High, and it feels like a declaration. Life is short. Life is long. Life is ours. The world will not hand you your next chapter. You take it. And you can take it at any age



YOU'RE NOT STUCK

You're Negotiating with Yourself and Losing

By Rick Clemons



Gay men over 50 are not short on self-awareness. They are short on decisions. There's a difference.

You know what needs to change.

You've known for a while. Maybe a long while. The relationship that stopped fitting two years ago, but here you both still are. The career that looks impressive on LinkedIn and feels like a slow leak on the inside. The version of yourself you keep performing for a room that honestly stopped paying attention a while back.

You're not confused. You're stalling.

And here's the part that should sting a little: The stalling isn't accidental, it's a strategy. A sophisticated, exhausting, remarkably airtight strategy for never having to make the decision that actually changes things.

We've been negotiating with ourselves since before we came out. We made it a survival skill. We learned to manage the gap between who we were and what the world expected, and we got so good at it that we just kept doing it long after the original threat was gone.

The closet was just the first negotiation. Most of us have been running some version of it ever since.

What The Negotiation Actually Sounds Like

It doesn't look like avoidance. That's the thing. It looks like responsibility. Like being thoughtful. Like taking your time and not being reckless.

It sounds like: "I just need a little more clarity." "I'll deal with it when the timing is better." "It's really not that bad." "I have too much to lose right now." "Things could be worse."

All of which is true. All of which is also a very polished way of not deciding.

The negotiation is that conversation you have with yourself, usually at 2am or in the shower or on a long drive, where you weigh the cost of change against the cost of staying and then decide, again, that staying is the safer bet. Not because it is. Because change has a known, immediate, terrifying cost and staying has a cost that is slow and quiet and easy to normalize.

So you normalize it. Year after year. And the life that almost fits becomes the life you have.

We spent decades building lives that looked acceptable to a world that didn't fully accept us. We became experts at the gap between the surface and the substance. Built careers, relationships, identities that worked on paper and felt, in the quiet moments, like someone else's story.

And now we're over 50 and the story has been running so long it feels like personality. Like this is just who we are and how things are.

It's not. It's a decision made under pressure a long time ago that you've never gone back to look at.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page
@ queerhivemagazine.ca**

Defying the Boxes

By Michael Shawn Sanders

This month the world celebrates International Non-Binary People's Day, a beautiful testament to a generation reclaiming their authentic colours. But fifty years ago, there was no language for who I was. I was an only child, isolated in the back woods of Tennessee. Because I was a waif, with blonde hair, big blue eyes and a joyful spirit, everyone treated me like a delicate girl.

Tragically, that sensitivity made me a target; trusted relatives subjected me to abuse starting at age five, treating me through the lens of a gender I hadn't chosen.



When I took a Barbie to school, the schoolyard weaponized my spirit, labeling me a "sissy". For twelve years, I was caught in a brutal crossfire: fighting off school bullies by day, surviving a violent alcoholic father at night, and navigating my mother's mental health struggles. My only sanctuary was my elderly, uneducated Pentecostal grandmother. Her unconditional love saved my life when I attempted suicide at sixteen. She saw my soul when the world only saw a target.

In 1985, the androgyny of the 1980s explosion threw me a lifeline. At eighteen, I finally came out. I felt liberated. Yet, the gay community was mostly segregated. Lesbians didn't mix with gay men, drag queens were isolated, and you were forced to choose a rigid box: masculine or feminine. There was no between. Because my internal spirit was fluid, I constructed a radical architecture of survival. I became gender fluid before the term ever existed. By day, I worked as a stylist in a salon; drag was limited for Halloween; by night I stepped into the leather bars. I was constantly switching, existing as a beautiful ghost in the spaces between the lines. My chosen family became the drag queens, the leathermen, and the sex workers.

Eventually, the trauma of body dysmorphia—a concept we didn't even have a name for yet—led me to stifle my feminine side. In my late-twenties, I fully stepped into the Leatherman persona, locking the rest away behind heavy armour. Decades later, the world has shifted. Folks at my church and nonprofit treat me like a father figure now. My reflection reveals a pretty mane of hair, those same blue eyes, and a resilient smile. I know what it feels like to struggle to be seen for who you truly are. As a man who spent years peeling back layers of armour to find my own truth, I deeply relate to the profound courage it takes for my non-binary siblings to step outside the boxes the world demands they live in. When the concept of non-binary entered the cultural lexicon, a soft wistfulness hit my heart. I thought, Wow, I wish I had had that choice at nineteen. We won't stop resisting the binaries that seek to confine the human spirit. My survival is the resistance; seeing a new generation step into their masterpiece without the schoolyard scars is my radical joy.





QUEER MARRIAGE

*Marriage Advice, Issues For &
Among Same-Sex Couples, Funny
Anecdotes, & More*



LOVE TRANSCENDS TIME: The Story of Ron and Lloyd

By Revs. Michael and Jason,
The Marry Men Wedding Officiants

On January 12, 1991, the Season 6, Episode 14 episode of The Golden Girls premiered on NBC. The episode was titled "Sister of the Bride" and featured an exchange between Blanche and Sophia who were discussing Blanche's reaction to her gay brother Clayton's plans to marry.



BLANCHE: Oh look, I can accept the fact that he's gay, but why does he have to slip a ring on this guy's finger so the whole world will know?

SOPHIA: Why did you marry George?

BLANCHE: We loved each other. We wanted to make a lifetime commitment. Wanted everybody to know.

SOPHIA: That's what Doug and Clayton want, too. Everyone wants someone to grow old with. And shouldn't everyone have that chance?



THE
MARRY
MEN

Sophia recognized that Doug and Clayton's love was no less important, sacred, or worthy of celebration than the one Blanche shared with her late husband, George. These are profound words of wisdom from a wise Sicilian senior, considering they were imparted 35 years ago on an Emmy-winning sitcom. The Golden Girls was surprisingly forward-thinking when it came to LGBTQ+ issues.

"The Golden Girls was no stranger to explicitly LGBT material," write Taylor Cole Miller and Alfred L. Martin Jr. in their recently-published exposé *The Golden Girls: Tales from the Lanai*. "What made the show especially queer were the characters and storylines that anchored conversations about other forms of sexuality and gender practices so the girls could voice their embrace, tolerance, and love. This representation of same-sex love and friendship is part of what makes the show so comforting and resonant, especially with marginalized viewers."

Same-sex intimate and committed relationships are in every way equal in purpose and intention to heterosexual marriages. Marriage is the institution that honours the love between two people and the self sacrificing commitments they have made to each other and to the wider community.

We have both been fortunate to have our very own "Golden Guys" in our lives - Ron (81) and Lloyd (85), who just recently celebrated 58 years of committed partnership. Their wisdom and lived experience have been a treasure to us. The stories they have shared over many dinner conversations and poolside chats carry the weight of years and offer valuable insights and perspectives that only time could cultivate.



“What would Ron and Lloyd Do?” has become a recurring motto in our household and a reminder that not everything in life has to be “a hill to die on.” They have become our chosen family — our “gay dads” — two elderly gay men whose own personal journeys have been filled with immense joy and triumph, but also fraught with overwhelming obstacles and heartache.



Ron, Lloyd, Rev. Michael and Rev. Jason

“When I was growing up, being gay was illegal, immoral, and offensive,” Ron shared. “I was reminded of that every day in some way. There was no other place except the closet. I got involved in church activities because it was safe. There were no options. I had no gay role models. There was nothing in film or television. Nothing I could find to read. There was no person I knew. I grew up with Jane Austin sensibilities - if you don’t talk about it, it doesn’t exist.”



Ron found comfort in the world of theatre and moved to London, England to study at the Guild Hall School of Drama. "Theatre was a safe place," Ron recalled. "It's where I could be me."

Both Ron and Lloyd lived in a time when being gay in the UK was a criminal offence. The Sexual Offences Act of 1967 in the UK partially decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults aged 21 or older in private, but there were still stipulations placed on gay men's freedoms.

"Being gay made me feel like I was set back," Lloyd told us,"but it gave me the drive and determination to move forward."

Even in the face of these restrictions and violations of civil rights, Ron and Lloyd ended up meeting for the first time on February 3, 1968 at a London gay club where they were able to express and enjoy being gay men. Last summer, Michael joined Ron and Lloyd in London, England and retraced their steps through the neighbourhood they called home in the early days of their relationship.



Ron and Lloyd



THE
MARRY
MEN

And while their love for one another flourished, they still found themselves living in the shadows of society where they endured the crucible of Stonewall, survived the devastating impact of the AIDS epidemic, and the oppressive Bathhouse Raids in Toronto. Despite all of this, they remained resilient. Despite facing discrimination, persecution, and the pain of losing loved ones to a relentless disease, Ron and Lloyd found solace in each other and continued to defy a world that sought to deny them their authenticity.

“I might have been 6 when I remember saying to my mother, ‘When I grow up and marry a man...’,” Ron confided, “and my mother stopped me and she sat me down on the staircase by the kitchen. That meant I must have said something really wrong. She said to me, ‘No dear. Little boys grow up to become men and little girls grow up to become women. And men marry women.’ And I remember thinking to myself - ‘If I want to marry a man, I’m going to marry a man.’”

It would take some time before young Ron’s “want for a wedding” would come true.

In 1969, Canada’s Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau famously stated, “There’s no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation,” and homosexuality was decriminalized via the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Before the establishment of a federal law, same-sex marriage became legal province-by-province through individual court rulings. Judges repeatedly found that the traditional definition of marriage — “between one man and one woman” — violated equality rights guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



On June 10, 2003, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled that the exclusion of same-sex couples was unconstitutional. That ruling took effect immediately and Michael Leshner and Michael Stark became the first same-sex couple to be legally married in Canada just a few hours later.

“Fancy getting married?” were Lloyd’s exact words to Ron when he called him during his drive home from work, having just heard the breaking news on the radio. Lloyd’s proposal came across as more of a suggestion.

“If we’re going to do it, we need to do it sooner than later,” Lloyd confessed. “Please note, IF we were going to do this. There was no suggestion that we were committed to doing this. None. We thought the government would appeal it.”

Ron and Lloyd would become the first same-sex couple to be married in the City of Mississauga.

“The issue of us getting married was entirely practical,” Lloyd admitted. “We had been through situations like the one at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital when Ron was unwell and they wouldn’t let me in to see him because I wasn’t related to him. We wanted to be next of kin.”



Ron and Lloyd



THE
MARRY
MEN

“A simple ‘We are married’ takes care of the confusion,” writes Gene Robinson, retired bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. “That’s why marriage equality matters, and why the word marriage matters. When we say we are married, people know that we have made commitments to each other, and we take them seriously, and that we have taken on all the responsibilities of marriage and expect all the rights recorded to married couples.”

Ontario and British Columbia were the first two provinces to legalize same-sex marriage in 2003. When the federal Civil Marriage Act came into force on July 20, 2005, same-sex marriage became legal across Canada. In fact, Canada became the third country in the world to permit same-sex marriages, after the Netherlands (2000) and Belgium (2003).

Ron and Lloyd’s enduring love is a reminder that, in the end, love is the greatest legacy we can leave behind. Love transcends time, challenges, and hardships, and inspires others to embrace their own truth and love fearlessly.

“The homophobic expectation is that unless same-sex marriages last forever, they shouldn’t happen at all. In fact, what happens to almost 50% of straight couples happens to same-sex couples, too. What is amazing is that same-sex marriages last as long as they do in the light of such prejudice and hatred.”

— Cheri Dinovo, *The Queer Evangelist*

In a world that continues to strive for inclusivity, Ron and Lloyd’s story encourages the next generation to be unapologetically true to themselves and to advocate for a more accepting and understanding society.



It was for this reason that we were honoured to invite Ron and Lloyd to serve as witnesses to our marriage in May 2016. Their presence, enriched by the experiences they have shared and the obstacles they have overcome, reminded us of the progress we have made as an 2LGBTQIA+ community and the importance of cherishing and protecting the rights and freedoms that continue to allow such unions to flourish.

As we celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary this summer, Ron and Lloyd's story, and ours, should remind all of us that each generation contributes to the ongoing narrative of progress, acceptance, and love with the goal of fostering a more inclusive world for everyone. "Everyone deserves the chance to grow old with someone," Sophia reminded Blanche in *The Golden Girls* 35 years ago. That's because true love really does transcend time.



Ron, Lloyd, Rev. Michael and Rev. Jason

Rev. Jason and Rev. Michael

www.themarrymen.ca

[@themarrymen](https://www.instagram.com/themarrymen)



TWC

TORONTO WEDDING CHAPEL
&
EVENT SPACE

WEDDINGS AND MEETINGS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

E-mail:
weddings@torontoweddingchapel.com

Phone: (416) 487-9800

Toll Free: 1-888-418-1188

Address:
276 Merton Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M4S 1A9
Canada



**Celebrating 19 years of
Micro Wedding
Ceremonies,
Receptions & Events**



Now Offering Exclusive Micro Events &
Celebrations!

Services include: Wedding Proposals, Milestone
Dinners, Networking Events, High Teas, Casino
Nights, Sip & Paint Parties, Girls Night Out, A
Dating Experience for Two & More.

Celebrating Diversity, Community, and Inclusion

By Jonathan Quinones



July is a month filled with sunshine, celebration, and opportunities to bring people together. While many associate July with summer vacations, outdoor adventures, and family gatherings, it is also a meaningful time to continue the spirit of inclusion, acceptance, and unity that many communities embrace during Pride Month in June. July offers an opportunity to celebrate diversity, strengthen connections, and recognize the importance of creating welcoming spaces for everyone.

As summer reaches its peak, communities around the world gather for festivals, cultural events, and outdoor activities that encourage people from different backgrounds to come together. These events highlight the values of friendship, respect, and understanding, reminding us that diversity enriches our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and families.

The LGBTQ+ community has made significant contributions to society in areas such as arts, culture, education, science, business, and public service. July is a wonderful time to continue recognizing these achievements and to celebrate the individuals who help make communities more vibrant, creative, and inclusive. By acknowledging diverse experiences and perspectives, society becomes stronger and more compassionate.

One of the most important aspects of inclusion is creating environments where people feel respected and valued for who they are. Whether in schools, workplaces, community organizations, or social gatherings, fostering acceptance helps build trust and understanding. Small acts of kindness, open-mindedness, and support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Summer events often provide opportunities for people to connect across cultures, identities, and generations. Community festivals, outdoor concerts, farmers markets, and neighbourhood celebrations encourage interaction and friendship. These shared experiences help break down barriers and create a sense of belonging. When people come together with mutual respect, they build stronger and more resilient communities.

July is also a time for reflection and learning. Many individuals use the summer months to explore books, documentaries, and educational resources that deepen their understanding of different cultures and identities. Learning about LGBTQ+ history and the ongoing journey toward equality can inspire meaningful conversations and greater empathy. Education remains one of the most powerful tools for promoting inclusion and reducing prejudice.

For many families, July is a season of togetherness. Family gatherings, vacations, and outdoor activities create opportunities to strengthen relationships and support loved ones. Families that encourage open communication and acceptance help create environments where individuals feel safe, respected, and understood. These supportive relationships can have a lasting positive impact on personal well-being and confidence.

The beauty of July extends beyond its warm weather and long days. It can also be seen in the diversity of the people who share our communities. Every person brings unique experiences, talents, and perspectives that contribute to a richer and more dynamic society. Celebrating these differences while recognizing our shared humanity helps foster unity and mutual respect.

Businesses, organizations, and community groups also play an important role in promoting inclusion throughout the year. Many continue initiatives that support diversity, equity, and belonging long after Pride Month has ended. These efforts help ensure that inclusion is not limited to a single month but remains an ongoing commitment. By creating welcoming environments and encouraging equal opportunities, organizations can make a positive impact on individuals and communities alike.

Nature itself offers a valuable lesson during July. Gardens flourish with a wide variety of flowers, each contributing its own color and beauty to the landscape. In much the same way, diverse communities thrive when people are free to be themselves and share their unique gifts. Differences should be celebrated as strengths that make society more vibrant and innovative.

As the sun sets on warm July evenings, many people gather with friends and loved ones to enjoy the season. These moments remind us of the importance of connection, acceptance, and community. Whether through acts of kindness, supportive conversations, or participation in inclusive events, everyone has the ability to help create a more welcoming world.

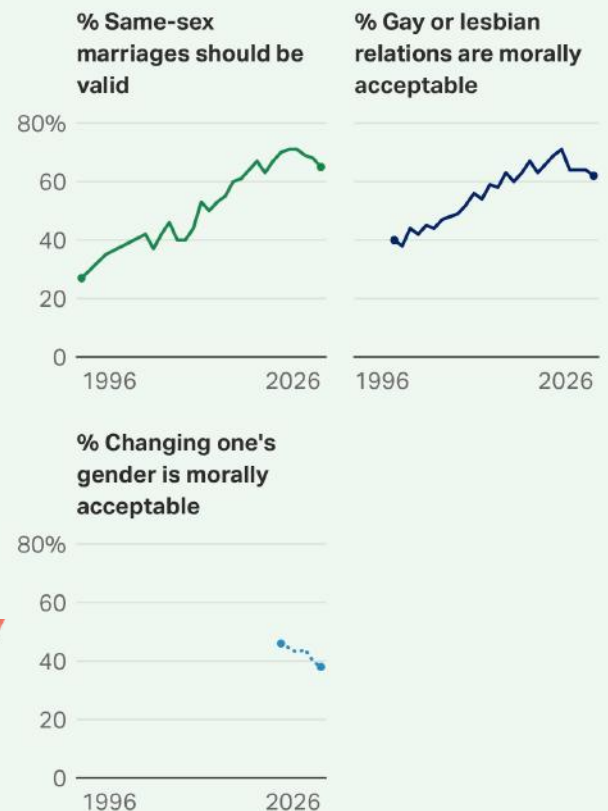
In conclusion, July is a month that celebrates more than summer. It is a time to embrace diversity, strengthen community bonds, and continue promoting inclusion for all people, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. By fostering respect, understanding, and acceptance, we can build communities where everyone feels valued and empowered to thrive. As we enjoy the warmth and beauty of July, let us also celebrate the diversity that makes our world brighter, stronger, and more connected.

MY ULTIMATE RESISTANCE

BY: BENJI WHITE

The queer community has long had to resist and fight for our rights. From Stonewall to the AIDS crisis to the present day. My husband and I live near Chicago in the Midwest of the United States. I will be speaking about the devolving situation in the country I was born in. Same-sex marriage was federally made legal in the United States in 2015.

Support Among U.S. Adults for LGBTQ+ Issues



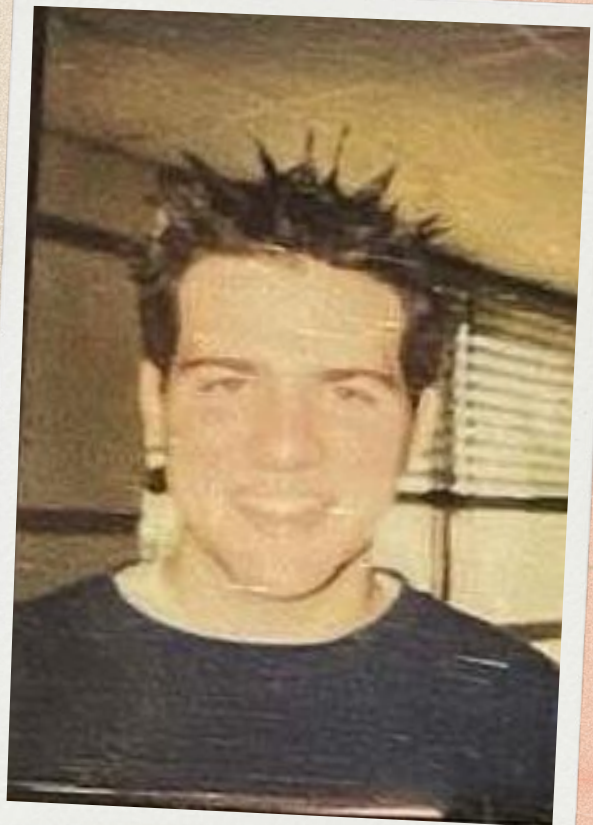
Selected trend for same-sex marriages, displaying the result from the May survey where available

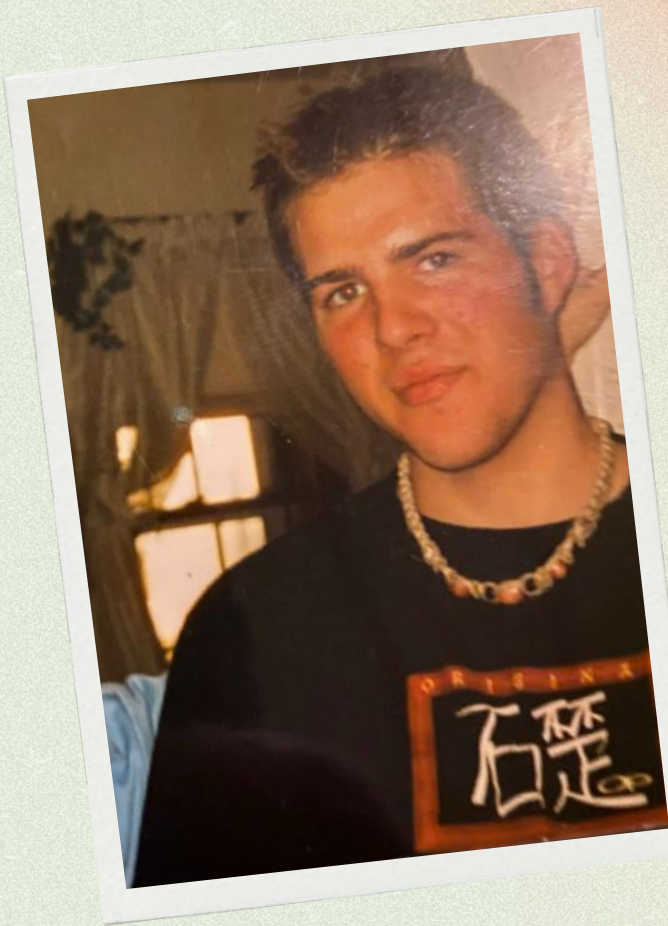
Get the data • Download image

As I have previously mentioned, I was raised a Jehovah's Witness. I knew I was different from the other boys from an early age, but I didn't know how or why. I enjoyed art and hated sports. I played with Barbie dolls, not GI Joes. As early as the age of four I was wearing my dad's t-shirt as a gown, my mom's high heels, and strutting around the house on my own imaginary runway. Sex is not allowed in this belief system until marriage and queer sex is never allowed.



Writing about these rules takes my mind back to my "first love." I started dating him when I was a senior in high school and had just turned 18. I've had two boyfriends before him, but I made sure to keep my virginity intact. When I met him I had been grappling with how I was going to be able to have sex since queer unions weren't legal and I was saving myself for marriage.





I knew homosexual sex was always prohibited in the faith I was brought up in, but I had left a year previously, and was trying to make my own set of values. I had decided before I had met my third boyfriend that I would only have “real sex” when I was truly in love. I had the usual teenage experimentation while in the religion and after I had left. I had gotten in trouble by a Judicial Committee of Jehovah’s Witnesses at age 16 when my teenage best friend had seduced me.

Ironically, his nickname was BJ and he was 15. He had sexual experiences with the other teenage boys in his congregation. They had reasoned that because they couldn’t have sex with a girl until marriage, they were allowed to have sex with one another. This was very backward reasoning as homosexuality was a bigger sin than fornication in the Jehovah’s Witness faith.



One weekend he kept trying to get me to exchange blowjobs and fool around with him. At this point, it hadn't really clicked with me that two men could have sex together. I was very naive, but very turned on by the idea. I remember laying in his bed watching TV while he talked dirty to me. I wanted to do physical things with him, but I had always been very concerned about breaking rules.

After two days of desperately resisting his advances, I gave in and had my first sexual experience.

Afterward, I felt so much guilt because of the brainwashing I had received about homosexuality. I confessed and we were publicly reprimanded in front of our congregations. We weren't allowed to be friends anymore. Many years later he found me and we had a few more physical experiences. I remember the excitement and anxiety I had as I snuck him into my bedroom in my parent's house while they were away. That night I lost my virginity. I didn't regret it because at the time I had thought I was in love, but I was sad that we weren't married when it happened.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page
@ queerhivemagazine.ca**



JOIN YOUR OWN JOYRIDE



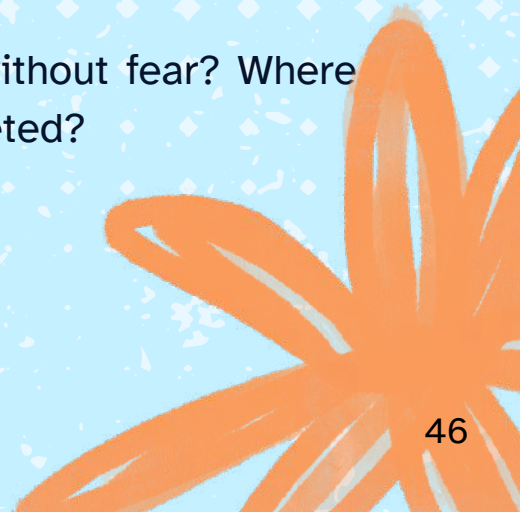
By: Val J. Prime

Every year, I look forward to Pride season much like I look forward to seeing nature bloom again in spring.

The shared excitement, the joy of coming together, and the celebration of our differences always leave me energized by the meaningful connections that emerge along the way.

But when the music fades and the colours become nothing more than chalk traces on the pavement, the aftermath can hit hard... sometimes in the form of loneliness.

So where do we keep showing up as ourselves without fear? Where do we continue to shine once the cheers have quieted?



THE GENTLE TOUCH OF ART

Some places feel like taking a deep breath.

Places where you walk in to see an exhibition and leave with a new idea, an unexpected encounter, or simply the feeling of having been welcomed exactly as you are.

In Montreal, Never Apart has transformed a former warehouse into a creative playground. Contemporary art, screenings, performances, and conversations come together in an atmosphere that inspires both reflection and wonder.

In Toronto, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre has spent more than forty years bringing unconventional stories to the stage. Theatre productions, mentorship programs, and the Rhubarb Festival all share the same spirit: Queer voices don't wait for permission to take up space here.

They simply shine.

Because after Pride, joy sometimes needs a different playground.

And art has a remarkable way of reaching out its hand.

Creating is also a way of daring to exist, imperfections and all.

Of course, leaving the house isn't necessarily the form creativity will take for everyone. Maybe it's finally writing down those thoughts that keep visiting your mind. Maybe it's letting a colourful pencil wander freely across a blank page. Or simply singing terribly in your car while remaining absolutely convinced you're an international superstar.

A little detour into pressure-free crayons. And before you know it, gentle curves become a treasure hunt.

Creativity doesn't ask for perfection.

Just a little courage.



CAMPING UNDER A FEARLESS MOON

Another way to reconnect is to return to something tangible: Nature, open spaces, and simple roots.

The forest as a refuge.

The lake as a mirror.

A place where nobody asks for explanations.

Sometimes, a simple walk is enough to provide an unexpected reset.

And then there's queer camping.

The kind where even the bees seem jealous of the marshmallows roasting over the campfire.

Queer-friendly campgrounds are easy to find across Canada. Places such as Cedars Campground in Ontario and Rainbow Ridge Resort, located about an hour from Toronto, offer welcoming spaces where the community gathers away from noise, expectations, and labels.

Perfect settings for colourful evenings around a campfire, solving the world's problems beneath a sky full of stars.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page
@ queerhivemagazine.ca**



Radical Joy Is Resistance



By Scott Gregory Bell

A few mornings ago, I was sitting in the dark at 5:30 a.m. with a cup of coffee, thinking about Pride, faith, family, politics, love, and all the other things people seem determined to argue about these days. That's what happens when you get a little older. You spend less time trying to be right and more time trying to understand what's actually true.

I've spent most of my adult life behind a salon chair in Sarasota. For over thirty years I've listened to people tell me their stories. Their marriages. Their divorces. Their affairs. Their dreams. Their fears. Their triumphs. People think hairstylists hear gossip.

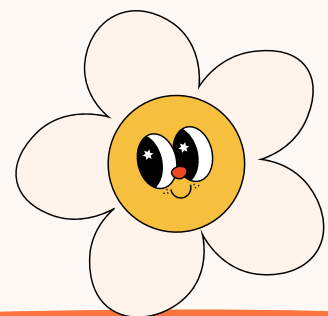
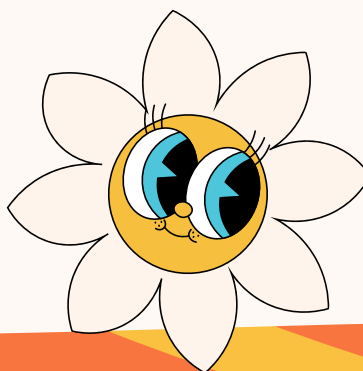
We do.

But what we really hear is humanity. I've watched people swear they'd never leave their spouse and file for divorce six months later. I've watched people who never spoke in grand romantic speeches quietly show up for each other year after year. That's why I've learned to trust actions more than declarations.

Show me consistency.

Show me tomorrow.

Show me next year.



That's where the truth usually lives. Maybe that's why I've been thinking about radical joy. Not happiness. Not excitement. Joy. The kind that survives when life doesn't go according to plan. The kind that remains after the applause dies down and the crowd goes home. The kind that says, "I'm still here." Because for a lot of us in the LGBTQ+ community, that's exactly what Pride has always been. Not a party. Not a parade. Not a marketing campaign.

A declaration.

We are still here. Still loving. Still building lives. Still creating families. Still showing up.

And speaking of family, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis recently declared June "Faith and Family Month." I'll be honest, I found myself chuckling. Not because I dislike faith. I don't. Faith has carried me through some difficult years. And certainly not because I dislike family. I love family. But aren't faith and family supposed to be twelve-month-a-year activities? Do families really need a proclamation reminding them to be families? Shouldn't we already be doing that?

To me, faith isn't a month. Family isn't a month. They're daily choices.

And here's the part that always seems to get left out of the conversation:

LGBTQ+ people have faith.

LGBTQ+ people have families.

We care for aging parents. We walk our dogs. We pay mortgages. We celebrate anniversaries. We sit in hospital rooms. We argue over dinner plans and household chores. In other words, we're people. Ordinary people living ordinary lives. Which is exactly why attempts to silence us never work. We're not going anywhere.

As we move beyond Pride Month and recognize International Non-Binary People's Day on July 14, I find myself wondering if Pride is even the best word anymore. Pride sounds like something optional. Something you attend. Something you celebrate. What we're really talking about is freedom. The freedom to exist. The freedom to love. The freedom to be exactly who we were created to be.

For me, radical joy is waking up before dawn and knowing I don't have to hide anymore. It's building a life with Steve. The man is entirely too tall, entirely too handsome, and completely unaware of how distracting he can be when he walks through a room. Yet somehow the sexiest thing about him isn't any of that. It's being consistent. It's showing up. It's choosing each other again and again. In a world obsessed with attention, consistency is revolutionary. Maybe that's why joy itself has become an act of resistance.

So wear the outfit.

Take the trip.

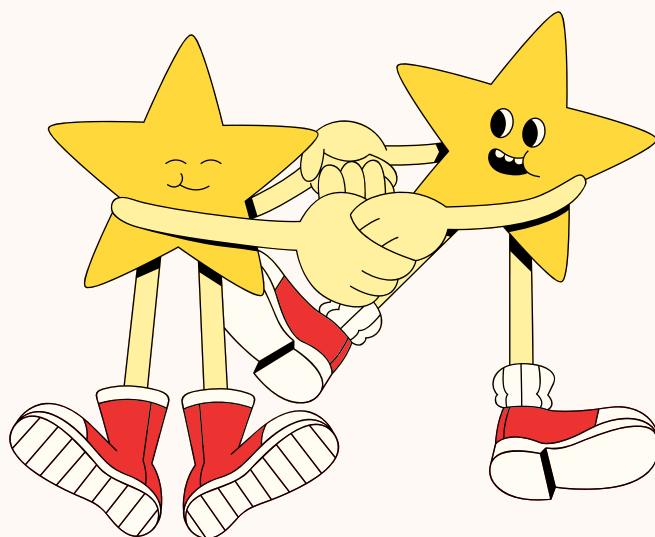
Hold your partner's hand.

Call your parents.

Love your people.

And don't apologize for your happiness.

Because after everything we've been through, joy isn't frivolous. It's evidence. Evidence that we're still here. And that, my friends, is something worth celebrating every day of the year.



We Won't Stop



radical joy, resistance, and the revolution of being ourselves

By Tyson Pete,
Award Winning Author of *Courageous Love: A Self Help Guide for Gay Fathers*

Joy is one of the most underestimated forces in the world.

Not the kind sold in advertisements or packaged inside motivational quotes. I'm talking about the joy that survives rejection, dances after heartbreak, and rises from hospital rooms, family estrangements, political attacks, religious condemnation, discrimination, violence, and silence. The kind of joy that says, "I am still here."

For the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, joy has never been a luxury; it has always been resistance.

In a world that has often tried to erase, shame, legislate, and hide us, every moment of authentic happiness becomes an act of defiance. Every wedding photo, chosen family gathering, Pride celebration, gender-affirming milestone, coming out story, and queer elder who lived long enough to share their story is proof that love endures.





Joy is also deeply connected to health and well-being. Research shows that social connection, belonging, and self-acceptance can improve mental health and strengthen resilience. For many 2SLGBTQIA+ people, affirming communities and supportive relationships reduce isolation and foster purpose and hope.

That is why they fear our joy. Because joy is evidence that their hatred failed.

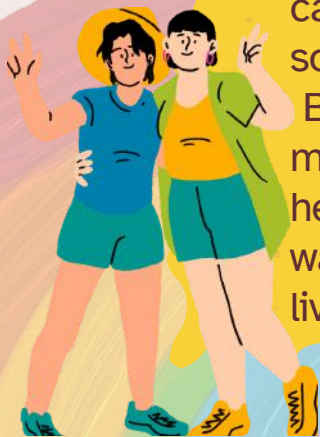
For generations, queer people have been told who to be, how to love, dress, speak, worship, parent, and exist. And yet here we are still creating art, still building families, still falling in love, still showing up, still dreaming, and still refusing to disappear.

Resistance doesn't always look like marching in the streets. Sometimes it looks like a trans teenager choosing to live another day, a lesbian couple holding hands despite the stares, a bisexual father sharing his story after years of hiding, a nonbinary person refusing to shrink themselves, or an elder passing down hard-won history.

And sometimes, resistance looks like joy. Pure, unapologetic, unfiltered joy. The kind that cannot be legislated away, voted out of existence, or forced to ask permission.

As a gay father, I understand this intimately. There was a time when survival felt like enough, when simply making it through the day felt like victory. Many of us know that feeling: The exhaustion of explaining ourselves, the burden of proving our humanity, and the weight of carrying generations of trauma while trying to build something better.

But survival cannot be the final destination. We deserve more than survival. We deserve abundance, peace, healing, laughter, celebration, and joy. Because the goal was never merely to stay alive; the goal was always to live.





And living fully means allowing ourselves happiness even when the world feels uncertain, especially when it feels uncertain. History teaches us that progress happens because someone dared to imagine a future that did not yet exist; someone who dared to dream, hope, believe, and experience joy despite every reason not to.

The history of 2SLGBTQIA+ resilience stretches back centuries. Across cultures and continents, gender-diverse and same-gender-loving people have always existed, even when records tried to erase them. From the activism that followed the Stonewall Riots to the advocacy that emerged during the AIDS Crisis, progress has been driven by ordinary people who refused to give up on themselves and their communities.



**Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca**



Kai DeMaeyer
Registered Psychotherapist
(Qualifying)

We Won't Stop Wanting:

Queer Pleasure as Resistance

Pride gives us a very public image of queer joy.

Bodies in the street. Flags in windows. Glitter on skin. Music loud enough to feel in your chest. People kissing, laughing, dancing, sweating, touching, being loud, being soft, being seen. For a moment, the city looks like it remembers we are here.

And then Pride month ends.

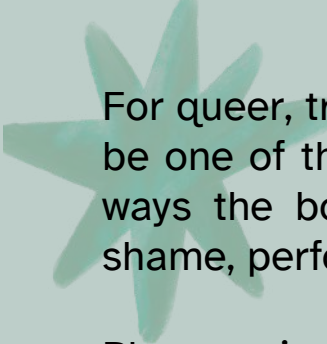
The logos come down. The posts slow down. The emails return to their usual signatures. Workplaces go back to business as usual. Families keep misgendering people. Healthcare systems keep asking trans and non-binary people to explain themselves. Dating apps keep turning desire into negotiation. The world that was briefly decorated for us does not necessarily become safer for us.

So, what happens to queer joy after the parade?

What happens when the public celebration is over, but queer people are still trying to build lives that feel worth staying inside of?

As a queer sex and couples therapist, I think about this a lot. Not only because I talk with people about desire, intimacy, gender, relationships, and bodies, but because I notice how often pleasure is treated as secondary. Something extra. Something we can get to later, after the urgent things are handled. After we are safer, more healed, more confident, more articulate, more settled, more explainable. After we have survived enough to finally deserve something beyond survival.

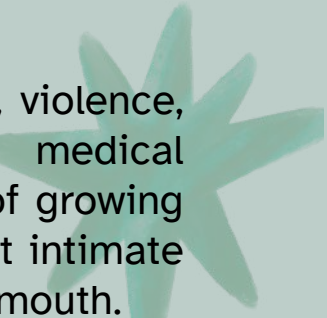
But pleasure is not extra.



For queer, trans, non-binary, and neurodivergent people, pleasure can be one of the ways we come back to ourselves. It can be one of the ways the body learns that it is not only a site of threat, scrutiny, shame, performance, dysphoria, or debate.

Pleasure is not a distraction from resistance. Sometimes, pleasure is the first place resistance becomes physically believable.

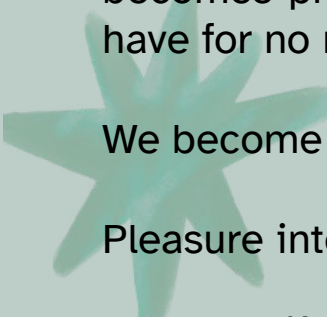
So much of queer life is narrated through harm: rejection, violence, shame, legislation, family rupture, religious trauma, medical dismissal, loneliness, loss. There is also the quieter grief of growing up without language for yourself, or realizing that your most intimate truths may become public conversations in someone else's mouth. Those realities matter. We cannot talk honestly about queer life without talking about what queer people are asked to carry.



But queer life is not only what has hurt us.

When the only stories told about us are stories of damage, something else gets taken. Our wanting becomes suspicious. Our bodies become political before they are allowed to be personal. Our joy becomes proof of resilience instead of something we are allowed to have for no reason at all.

We become symbols before we are allowed to be people.



Pleasure interrupts that.

Kai DeMaeyer

Registered Psychotherapist

(Qualifying)

talkwithkai.ca | kai@talkwithkai.ca

Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca



2SLGBTQIA+ MENTAL HEALTH

Key Mental Health Factors & Statistics:

- **High Prevalence:** 2SLGBTQIA+ people are over twice as likely to experience a mental health condition, with transgender individuals nearly four times as likely.
- **Youth Vulnerability:** 2SLGBTQIA+ youth are at elevated risk for self-harm and suicidal ideation, with trans/nonbinary youth 2-2.5 times more likely to consider suicide than cisgender LGBTQ peers.
- **Minority Stress:** Chronic stress from stigma, discrimination, bullying, and fear of violence contributes heavily to these disparities.
- **Intersectionality:** 2SLGBTQIA+ youth of colour, particularly Indigenous and Black youth, report higher rates of suicide attempts compared to their white LGBTQIA+ peers.
- **Access Barriers:** Fear of discrimination or receiving inappropriate care can prevent individuals from seeking help.



Raven Hearth is a Certified Recovery Mentor and Death Doula/Death Worker based in Oregon, USA. Identifying as non-binary and queer, they are passionate about supporting the mental health of LGBTQIA2S+ communities. When not engaging in activism or writing, Raven enjoys reading, listening to music, baking, photographing nature's wonders, and interacting with local wildlife, always encouraging it to flourish. Their commitment to mental health advocacy is vital in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all.





QUEER WITCHES

Queer Hive is now accepting submissions for gay witch content! If you have a passion for exploring the intersection of queer identity and modern witchcraft, we want to hear from you. Whether it's spells, rituals, or personal stories, we are eager to showcase the diverse voices within the queer witch community.

If you're interested in contributing, please email us at queerhivemagazine@gmail.com.

BASIC SPELLS: PURIFICATION, PROTECTION, HEALING & PROSPERITY

Hello Readers and thank you for your patronage! This article will tackle the issues of basic spells and the theory behind them. For the next few articles we will dive into the four basic categories of spells and methods to execute them. The four basic categories every magical practitioner should learn are purification, protection, healing and prosperity. The methods we use to execute these spells are the elemental types of air, water, earth and fire.



By Adrien Clarke

To execute air spells I will primarily discuss burning incense, resins and herbs. To execute water spells I will discuss teas and brews to drink, as well as herbal baths and floor/wall washes. To execute earth spells I will discuss food, the use of roots and herbs in container spells, and powders. We will round out this discussion with the execution of fire spells by using candles and lamps. I will try to avoid advanced spell theory for now as it may be confusing.



Purification in the context of spell work generally involves the removal of negative or undesirable influences or the presence of something on a person, object or space.

When we burn herbs, incense or resins to fumigate a space with smoke (using the air element here!) our aim is to purify the thing in question by using air to gently push out whatever we don't want.

When we use the element of water we ingest liquid infused with certain herbs to change our spiritual composition from within. We can infuse liquid with herbs by boiling them and use that to douse our bodies after a cleansing shower. We can also dress the body with magical oils or perfumes/colognes we prepare from combinations of herbs, resins, spices and oils (for magical oils) and the addition of alcohol with the aforementioned (for perfumes/colognes). Liquid sprays can be utilized to purify a space or object using the same preparation method.

Using the element of earth we can use dried or drying herbs and leave them to hang on a wall near a threshold, in an open container (to absorb the influence in question), in a jar or bag, or swept on the floor.

Finally, using the element of fire we can burn paper, effigies, candles and lamps to affect a specific person, an area or an object. Removing the unwanted influence or presence is the first step because it allows us the space to make further changes to a person, thing or area which would have been occupied by whatever is unwanted.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca**



Merry Meet, Witches!

Meet Our Vendors

- Little Black Cat Creations
- Frontier Man
- Centered Spirit
- Flying Magnolia
- Metaphysical Studio
- Magically Practical
- Black Cat Botanicals
- wood + stone
- Pour It Out With Mystic Mom
- Tea Cup Magick

And many more!



The Crones Cave Metaphysical Shop is a premier metaphysical store in London, ON, conveniently located at 232 Dundas St. We offer a wide selection of spiritual and witchcraft supplies, including crystals, tarot and divination tools, ritual items, cleansing products, and handcrafted goods from over 20 local artisans.

Our shop is more than a retail space—it's a thriving spiritual community hub. With in-store psychic and tarot readings, workshops, and events hosted in The Raven's Parlour, we provide a welcoming environment for learning, connection, and personal growth. Whether you're searching for metaphysical supplies or looking to explore your spiritual path, The Crones Cave is your destination for authentic, locally sourced magic.

Want the inside scoop and discounted items? Subscribe to our newsletters to be the first to get products, information, and invitations to store events.

cronescavemetaphysical.ca

THE JOURNEY TO LOVING YOURSELF FOR WHO YOU ARE

by Spirit Tom and Betsy Marie

Growing up, were you told that it was not okay to be gay? Did it stop you from having those feelings?

No. It just made growing up that much harder. Spirit Tom knew he liked boys, not girls, when he was about seven years old. Unfortunately, being born in 1914, he was never able to be the person he wanted to be given the time period he was born into.

Why is that?

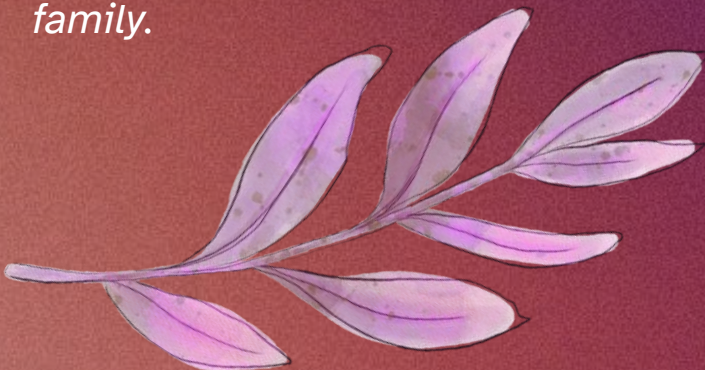
In that time, men and women had specific roles which were not to be questioned.

Were people still gay?

Yes, but in the shadows. You could be arrested for illegal sexual activities, bringing shame upon you and your family.



I am a psychic medium and the founder of Faith Ministry. Faith Ministry is a non-denominational spiritualist ministry based around the goal of ending domestic abuse. I work towards this goal with the 21 Spirits of Faith Ministry through art, writing, and counseling services.



What does that do to a person's self-esteem?

You constantly have feelings that something is wrong with you.

Did this get any better as society was beginning to change towards individuals who were different?

Let's take a look at the 1950's.

A friend we know is a trans woman, now in her seventies. Her mother used to beat her and say, I will beat this out of you. Obviously, that did not work. It only caused a great deal of trauma. Before transitioning she married and had children. She described herself at that time as a functioning alcoholic. Progress yet?

How about the 1960's?

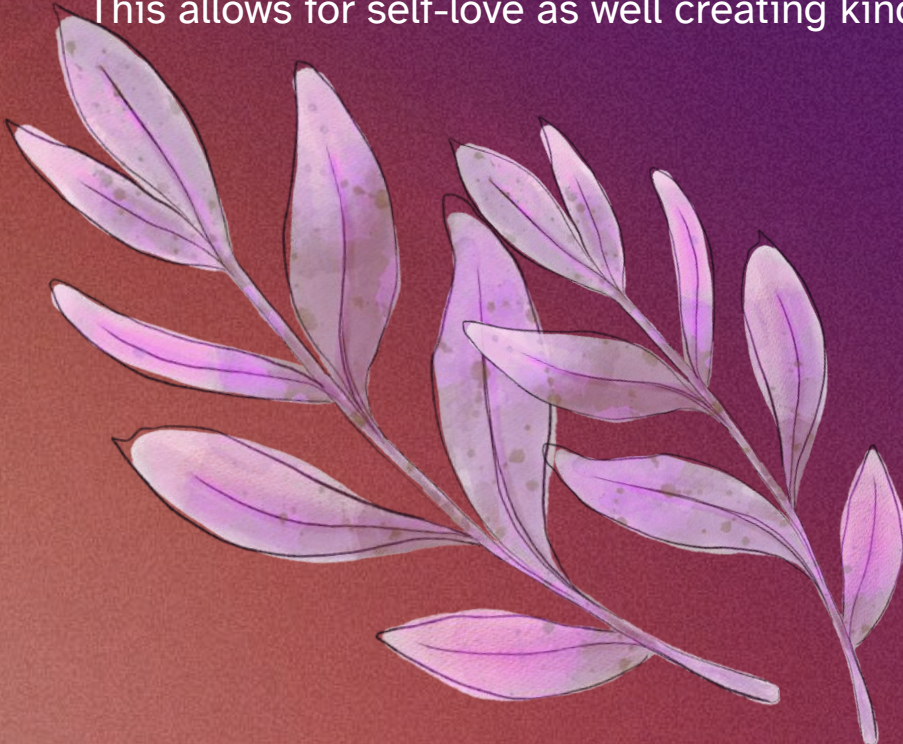
Betsy Marie was born in 1961.

Was she always an out lesbian?

The answer is no. She grew up in a conservative middle class neighbourhood. Girls and boys still had behavioural norms to adhere to. The path was to get a good education, eventually get married and have a family, which she did. So many women of this generation followed the same path, often coming out later in life.

No matter the time period you were born into, being gay and living a happy, fulfilling life should never be questioned or judged by others. Parents should love their children for who they are.

This allows for self-love as well creating kind and caring adults.



MY PATH AS A GAY WITCH

I am a cis gay white man; your mileage may vary.

Modern witches are increasingly turning to the ancient Greek goddess Hekate to navigate complex contemporary lives, as I have done for nearly a year. As a powerful, liminal deity governing the crossroads, magic, and thresholds, she offers deep spiritual empowerment and guidance. I often see her categorized with other "dark" goddesses, but she is the light in the dark, a compassionate, guiding Witch Mother.



Thred Ardor, an active community organizer, holds a master's degree in social psychology with a research emphasis on LGBT+ prejudice and stigma.

The Eternal Goddess of the Crossroads

Hekate's history spans over three millennia, originating long before she was integrated into Ancient Greek Mythology. In modern Neopaganism, she is often honored as a protector of the marginalized, a guide through the mysteries of life and death, and a bringer of light in the dark. Her devotees view her as the ultimate representation of the "in-between" spaces, acting as a bridge between the physical and spiritual realms.

Working with Hekate in Modern Witchcraft

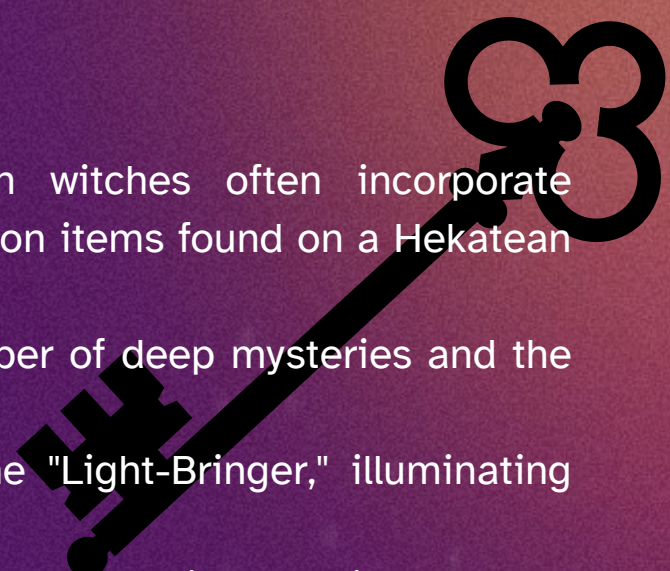
For contemporary practitioners, building a relationship with Hekate is about self-transformation and empowerment. She can be approached in several distinct ways:

Shadow Work: Many witches view Hekate as the perfect guide for shadow work. By holding her metaphorical torches, she illuminates the hidden, repressed, or feared parts of the psyche, allowing practitioners to heal and step into their personal power.

Crossroad Decisions: True to her ancient title as the Guardian of the Crossroads, modern witches often seek her counsel when facing difficult life decisions or monumental transitions.

Devotion and Offerings: Devotees express their reverence through ancient practices like the Deipnon, or "Hekate's Suppers." Held in the dark of the moon, practitioners leave offerings at crossroads or neglected places to honor the goddess and the spirits of the dead.

Herbalism and Magic: Hekate is deeply tied to the earth, the sea, and the sky. Many witches utilize her traditional associations with plant spirit medicine, poisons, and healing herbs to enhance their spellwork and magical practice.



Symbols and Ritual Tools

When working with Hekate, modern witches often incorporate specific talismans and symbols. Common items found on a Hekatean altar may include:

Keys: Symbolizing her role as the keeper of deep mysteries and the opener of blocked paths.

Torches: Representing her title as the "Light-Bringer," illuminating the darkness.

The Wheel of Hekate (Strophalos): A serpentine labyrinth symbol representing the divine emanations of the goddess.

Dogs: Honoring her historic association with black hounds and her role as a protector of boundaries.

Crystals:

Black Obsidian: Highly grounding; for shadow work, warding off negative energy, and protection.

Moonstone: Represents her lunar aspects, intuition, and divine feminine connection.

Amethyst: For spiritual wisdom, psychic vision, and inner tranquility.

Labradorite: Symbolizes transformation, magic, and mystical insight.

Black Tourmaline: Provides strong energetic protection and psychic shielding.

Herbs & Botanicals

Mugwort: Historically and traditionally sacred to her; used for divination, psychic protection, and dream work.

Lavender: For cleansing, purification, and bringing peace to the space.

Mullein: Stalks were historically dipped in fat and burned as torches in her honor.

A Symbol of Feminine Empowerment

For the modern witch, Hekate represents a redefinition of the word itself. Rather than a symbol of patriarchal oppression, Hekate's witches see her as an emblem of sovereign wisdom and spiritual strength. By aligning ourselves with the Queen of Witches, contemporary practitioners find the courage to walk our own paths, embrace our intuition, and navigate the complexities of the modern world.



BONESTONE AND EARTHFLESH

A Deck Review

Of course, I knew about The Bonestone and Earthflesh Tarot when it first came out.

It was independently released and a very limited printing and I just remember people being so thrilled to have snagged a copy of the deck. I hadn't been lucky enough to do so and the deck kind of fell off my radar until I learned that the deck was being re-released and published by Lewellen and Blue Angel. I delved into the online images and discovered a whole new world.



By: Jamieson Wolf

Inspired by the legends and myths of previous times, I was curious to see how the deck looked. I wondered at a tarot deck filled with beings from all kinds of beings from myth and mysticism. Would the deck work at all? Sure, the art was gorgeous, but how would the cards read? I was so curious and really wanted to delve into the world that Avalon Cameron and Ana Tourian had created.

When a friend gave me a gift card for Yule, I knew that there was only one thing I wanted. I got myself a copy of The Bonestone and Earthflesh Tarot. I opened the box and was prepared for disappointment, positive that my excitement would not continue after the fever pitch. It's like this sometimes with decks; they become part of my collection, but I don't use them, and results in the attraction I felt for the cards fleeing.

That didn't happen with The Bonestone and Earthflesh Tarot. Instead, it has only increased. I've pretty much used this deck exclusively since December. Whenever I go to read the cards, I'm drawn back into the world that has been created within the cards. When I open the box and flip through the cards, the art just pulls me into a world that I want to be part of. Additionally, it's widened my knowledge of legend and lore. I was surprised by how many of the myths and stories I did recognize, but there were so many other cards that featured legends that I did recognize.

In a way, the Bonestone and Earthflesh Tarot has helped to guide me back to a place within myself that I had closed off. It gave me the windows that I needed to look within myself and helped me to find the door I wanted to open. More than that, the card helped me to see myself as I truly was without all my perceived failings and negativity. Using the cards gave me a new light to shine upon myself and I am forever grateful.

The deck comes in a beautiful two-piece box with a lifting ribbon, and the cardstock is absolutely fantastic, thick but nice and springy. It shuffles beautifully, whether you are overhand shuffling or riffle shuffling. The colours of the art are amazing and vibrant, and you can tell that creating this new version of the deck was a joy.

The guidebook is a dream. Printed in full colour, it's a chunky guidebook filled with spreads, a bit of tarot history, rituals and the secrets that the cards hold. It's not only a tour through the cards, but a tour through your own spirit as well. Each card has an entry on what the cards mean, the story or narrative behind the card and the upright and reversed meanings as well as numerology and astrology notes for each card and journal prompts that will enhance your writing and help you get to know the cards in a more personal way. When you get to the Minor Arcana, you are given an overview of what each suit means and symbolizes before they get into the cards themselves. I'm normally not one for guidebooks but have found myself diving in and reading the story that the cards present.

The whole deck is perfect. I can't wait to see what The Bonestone and Earthflesh Tarot can help me to learn about myself as I continue my journey onward in the land of legend and mythology.

Card for the Month: The Knight of Pentacles

Be prepared to face challenges head on. You have all your wits about you and you've been through this before, but now you have the added protection of your knowledge and your strength. Only you can choose when to strike, either to defend yourself or to forge a new path ahead. You reward loyalty and kindness but don't be too quick to judge or strike. You will need to take your time when observing the situation around you. You already know the path forward. It's up to you to decide when you take it.



BOUNDLESS FEMININITY



John O'Keefe

Rainbow Boudoir is a kink and LGBTQ+ friendly photography studio near Buffalo, NY. Our goal is to create a safe space for people of all identities: genders, race, fetish and sexual preference. We especially celebrate queer gender non-conformance.

We founded Rainbow Boudoir as a means to help our LGBTQ+ community see their true beauty as well as have an amazing experience and have tasteful and even erotic photographs for themselves. We provide low-cost services to the community, not for our own profit, but to help folks in the community, especially those undergoing gender transition, feel empowered in their beauty.



We see beauty all around us and it was obvious to me that the trans as well as the entire LGBTQ+ community was underserved in “boudoir.” We have heard tragic and hurtful stories from people we’ve met of photographers turning down transwomen, transmen, and gay along with lesbian partners because the photographer didn’t feel “comfortable” or made them feel shame. The same gap applies to kink photography, where many photographers won’t touch something that isn’t vanilla mainstream. While we each should be able to choose our own target audience, I strongly feel a need for outlets where people can be their true selves and express that in photography and video.

We also provide makeup and “makeover” services that are popular with trans women and crossdressers who get to enjoy a time to “be themselves.” The feeling I get as the photographer to see that released and relaxed joy in their faces is something that keeps me going strong.



August 1, 2026 12pm-12am Lockport, NY



Featuring!
Rope Styling with
Ballerina
Goddess

Includes

- Photoshoot
- Dungeon
- Pool
- Hot Tub
- Shibari
- Campfire
- Dinner



We were interviewed a while back for an article from Pink Femme Magazine, which is run by someone who provides content and advice for transitioning and crossdressing people who enjoy feminization.

In 2019, I decided to create an event that celebrates all types of femininity, regardless of gender, as a means to bring transwomen, transmen, crossdressers, nonbinary and queer cis women who want to be part of that community of care. We invite about a dozen people to come to our home studio for a day where they can have an amazing time of social comradery with other people who identify with the feminine experience. We have a pool, hot tub and fire pit with s'mores and an incredible openness that our clients take advantage of to build new friendships and relationships with that feminine bond.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca**

IZALEA DOES EVERYTHING

volume 4



By Izalea Bradaigh

Today is about joy. General joy of course, queer joy for sure! But our joy is currently in the face of dark times and that means I am going to touch on some hard topics. Be ready and prepared before you continue reading. We take care of ourselves here; we put on our own masks first and then we take care of each other.

My mask is on, and if you are ready, keep reading. If this is going to be too much today or any day, don't keep reading. It's simple, the first step of finding and keeping joy, is knowing when continuing forward will wreck that joy.

Love you all, let's get into it.

Joy.

That's what we are getting into today. Three letters, a simple word, we all have an idea of what it is, and we all know what joy means, right? Webster's dictionary defines joy as... naw lol can you imagine if I went there?

No, no, we are going to get into joy from our own unique perspective. Queer Joy is obviously still joy on the surface, but there are deeper meanings behind it. And for any of you allies or just non-queer folks who want to learn, maybe this can help you a little. But the angle I'm writing from is Queer Joy specifically.

The difference between joy and queer joy, at surface level, is subtle. June having just passed when you read this means some of the examples are fresh in your minds, which is very beneficial to my writing right now. Almost like there's a plan behind all this, huh?

Okay, I'm vamping a little, let's get serious.

Joy itself is just being happy, being confident and secure in precisely what you are doing. Maybe you have a craft you love doing and you just nailed it in your last project. Maybe it's seeing that human you love after a long absence. Joy can come from a variety of sources, but it is generally kind of the same across the board.

Each description of joy, the more specific it is, does become its own type if you focus on it. That crafting joy I mentioned up there, is personal joy. The feeling of joy that comes from a successful endeavour. A sort of confidence. The feeling of 'oh, hey, I did it. Yay.' While it remains joy at its core, it wears a specific coat of sorts that makes it mean slightly more. This is the part where Queer Joy comes in. And yes, I'm gonna capitalize it in this article, not to de-emphasize other joy, but to bring focus to this Queer variant.

Queer Joy is something that needs a sort of, I'm not sure exactly how to describe it, but upkeep? Queer Joy is not self sustaining for most of us because of the wider world and the troubling outlook some folks outside our community have towards us.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca**



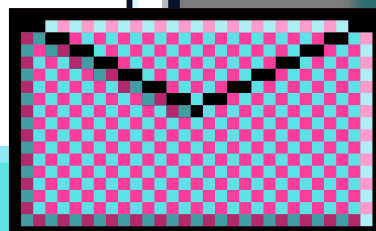
ADVICE WITH A TAB OF ACID

EXPERT
ADVICE FOR
EVERYDAY
PROBLEMS

Dear Tabitha,

My son is twenty-six and just moved across the country for a job. I'm proud of him, but I miss him terribly. The house is so quiet now. I keep reaching for my phone to send him little things and then stopping myself because I don't want to be overbearing. How do I let him have his own life without feeling like I've lost part of mine?

Missing My Boy



Start



Dear Missing,

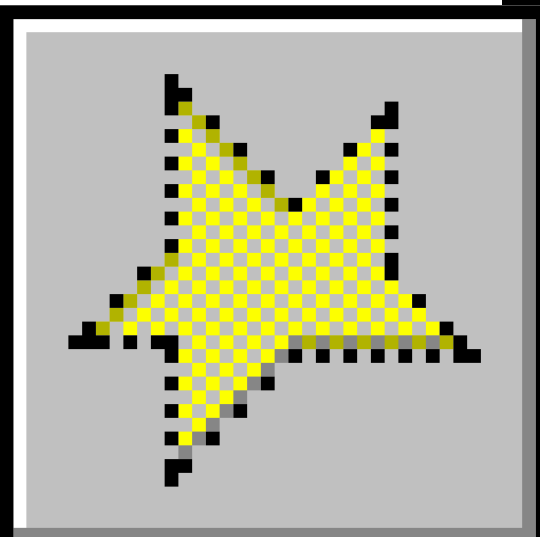
If loving your child could be turned off like a lamp, parenting would be a whole lot easier and much less beautiful.



I can relate on the other side of the coin. At twenty-three years old I was the child moving across the country away from my mother. Of course you miss him. For twenty-three years, your days were built around knowing where he was, what he was doing, whether he'd remembered his jacket, and if he was eating anything besides cereal. Then one day he's thousands of miles away, making his own mistakes and buying his own groceries. Nobody tells your heart how to adjust.

Here's the secret, though, he didn't move away because he needed you less. He moved away because you did your job so well.

The goal was never to keep him close. The goal was to help him become someone who could go into this big world bravely and succeed on his own.





So send the text. Not ten texts. And don't send a twelve-paragraph analysis of his last phone call. Just the occasional photo of the family dog, a picture of a ridiculous sale at the grocery store, or a simple "Thinking of you. Hope you're having a good day."

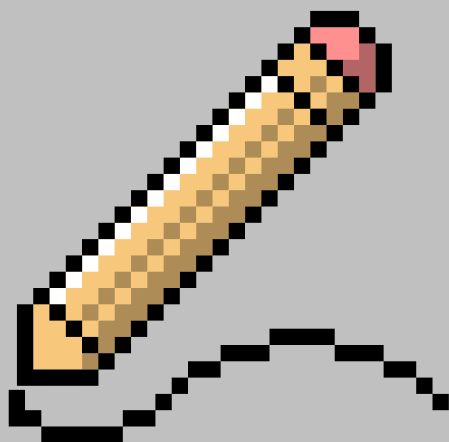
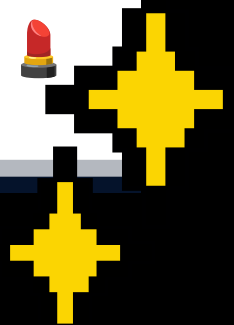
Those little messages don't say, "Come back."
They say, "Home is still here."

And one day you'll realize something wonderful: The relationship isn't shrinking. It's changing. You're no longer the parent responsible for carrying him through life. You're becoming the person he chooses to call when something good happens.

That's a different kind of closeness.

And if you ask me, those are the relationships that make life worth living.

Tabitha Acidz





Send your questions to
tabithaacidz@gmail.com.

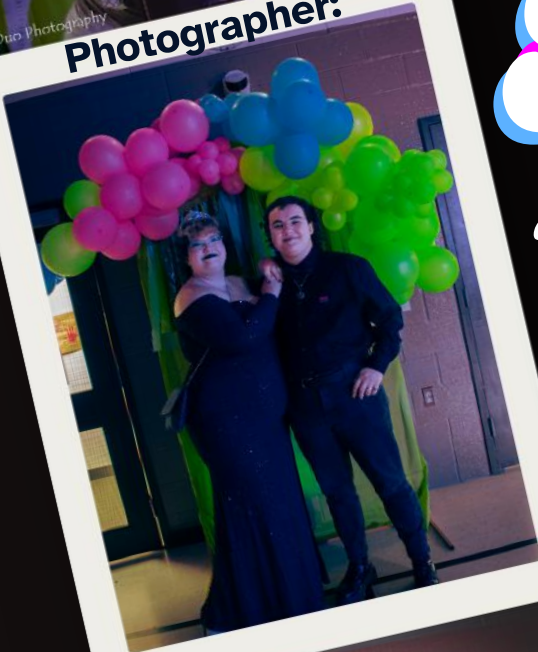
Tabitha Acidz is a psychedelic drag queen who enjoys writing music, reciting poetry, telling stories, and playing dress up. She has graced the audiences of The Clinton Street Theater and The New Music Gathering, and has been awarded grants from both the Oregon Arts Commission and the Regional Arts & Culture Council. She is also a writer of the witty and heartwarming column, Advice with a Tab of Acid.

Out of drag, when she isn't drowning in makeup brushes and blush, Tabitha is the phenomenal composer, poet, and author Timothy Arliss O'Brien.

Photography by Dynamic Duo Photography on Facebook
or @ dynamicduophotography on instagram



Photographer:



Jessica Perkins



Queer Prom 2026

Sponsored in part by Rainbow
Connections and Geco

Was held on Saturday June 6th
at the YMCA on High St. in St.
Thomas

For all Youth ages 14-19



THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN I CHOSE

Noah



By Noah "The Stigma Fighter"

2018: Finally Saying It Out Loud

I moved to California in August 2018, several months after my brother died, because I felt an undeniable need for change. His death forced me to confront how fragile life can be and challenged assumptions I had carried about time, identity, and the future. Up until that point, I had spent much of my life focusing on responsibilities, expectations, and the needs of others while placing many of my own questions on hold. The move was not an attempt to run away from my life, but an opportunity to create space for reflection during a period of profound loss. Looking back, I can see that California did not change who I was, but it gave me the environment I needed to listen to myself more honestly.

Part of what made that honesty difficult was the era in which I grew up. As a millennial raised during the 1990s, I rarely encountered meaningful conversations about transgender identities, and the language that exists today was largely absent from my world. Even when I began recognizing pieces of myself in the stories of others, those experiences were often overshadowed by stigma, misinformation, or ridicule. I watched friends come out and face rejection from people they cared about, which reinforced the belief that authenticity carried significant risks. Without many visible examples of support or understanding, remaining silent often felt safer than confronting the possibility of losing relationships.

By the time I came out later that year, I was not discovering something new about myself so much as acknowledging something I had been carrying for a very long time. Although the decision brought relief, it also confirmed some of the fears I had developed over the years as several friendships changed or ended altogether. Many of those reactions were rooted in the belief that being transgender was a mental illness rather than a valid expression of human diversity, making the losses particularly painful. At the same time, choosing authenticity gave me a sense of freedom that outweighed the comfort of remaining hidden. What began as a decision to come out ultimately became the first step in a much larger journey of understanding who I was beyond other people's expectations.

**Article Continued on our Blog Page @
queerhivemagazine.ca**



Jamie Corry is a 57 year old lesbian artist located outside of Buffalo, New York.



RAW & UNASHAMED

when “nothing” is a lie

By: Skip Sams

Six months into the relationship, my boyfriend relapsed. I knew I had to leave. I loved him deeply, but I could not follow him down that path. It was one of the most heartbreaking decisions I had ever made. I was grieving deeply, but I was also angry. Really angry.

For a long time, I believed my anger was directed at him. I told myself I was angry because he had abandoned me. Angry because he had chosen drugs over our relationship. Angry because everything we had built together had fallen apart.

Then someone introduced me to the work of Byron Katie. As I worked through the questions, I discovered something I never expected.

I wasn't angry because he had abandoned me. I was angry because I had abandoned myself.

The moment I saw it, everything changed. Somewhere along the way, I had stopped honoring my own truth. I had ignored what I knew. I had negotiated with my boundaries. I had compromised parts of myself in the hope that things would somehow work out differently. The anger I felt was not really about what he had done. It was the pain of realizing I had not been true to myself.

That insight became one of the most important lessons of my life thus far. It changed the way I made decisions. Whenever I found myself upset with someone else, I began asking a different question. Where had I abandoned myself? Where had I ignored my own truth? Where had I chosen comfort, approval, or hope over what I knew to be true?

Fifteen years later, I'm in a new relationship. I've healed. I've grown. We've always communicated very well, even in our disagreements. But a couple months ago, we had a huge argument. There was something about this argument that triggered the survival button. I started to shut down. I noticed myself becoming quieter. When something bothered me, I kept it to myself. When he asked me what was wrong, I found myself answering, "Nothing," even though I knew it wasn't true. Silence seemed safer because telling the truth had the potential to rock the boat.

At first, I told myself I was keeping the peace. But the more I sat with it, the more familiar it felt. I recognized that old pattern of moving away from myself, and it wasn't dramatic or some life-changing decision; it showed up in small moments. A feeling I didn't express, a concern I didn't voice, a truth I edited before it ever left my mouth.

Here is what is different this time: Fifteen years ago, I only saw it in hindsight, long after the relationship was over. This time, I recognized what was happening while I was in it. I am not one to pretend I have it all perfectly wrapped up in a neat little bow. But I know how to find my way back. The truth is, this story is still unfolding. And I know now that if I abandon myself, I am abandoning the very trust that has made this relationship different from any other I have known.

Self-abandonment rarely arrives all at once. In my experience, it happens one compromise at a time. The good news is that the opposite works the same way. We return to ourselves one choice at a time. One boundary at a time. One honest conversation at a time.

Lately, I've been asking myself a simple question: Am I honoring my truth? Not because I always know the answer, but because I've learned what happens when I stop asking.

Skip Sams is a certified professional coach, musician, and writer. Through his coaching, speaking, and writing, he explores authenticity, recovery, leadership, and what it means to live a life aligned with one's truth. He is the founder of the Gay Men of Integrity in Leadership Summit. For more information, email skip@skipsams.com.



DANIEL CAYER INTERIORS



Daniel Cayer Interiors is a boutique design firm known for creating elegant, functional, and personalized spaces.

Follow for pro tips and helpful home decor principles for interior decorating services.

Daniel Cayer
647-290-7361

DESIGN AS DEFIANCE:

Framing Radical Joy and Non-Binary Expression in Private Spaces

By Daniel Cayer

When the clock strikes midnight on June 30th and the corporate rainbow banners are quietly folded away into storage bins, a strange thing happens. The public conversation around pride and identity seems to vanish from the storefronts.

But it doesn't actually disappear. It just moves indoors.

As interior designers—and simply as human beings trying to navigate a wild world—we know a home is never just a collection of matching furniture or a carbon copy of a Pinterest board. A home is a physical manifestation of your mind.

It's an act of beautiful, stubborn self-determination. For marginalized communities, and specifically for gender-expansive and non-binary folks, a home isn't just a luxury—it's the ultimate sanctuary. When the public sphere feels increasingly loud and hostile, our private spaces have to become bastions of Radical Joy and Uncompromising Resistance.

By intentionally designing our personal environments, we can transform four walls and a ceiling into a physical declaration of who we are. Here is how we build spaces that refuse to conform





Zoning for Radical Joy: The Living Spaces

Let's be honest: In a world that constantly demands we smooth down our edges to fit into neat little boxes, choosing a deeply expressive, maximalist aesthetic isn't just a design preference. It's a quiet, glorious rebellion. Radical joy in design means looking at the sterile, rigid rules of what a living room should look like and throwing them out the window in favor of a curated abundance that makes your spirit soar.

To bring this unapologetic energy into your main living area or salon, focus on three things:

Curves and Fluid Shapes: Traditional institutional furniture is obsessed with harsh, rigid, 90-degree angles. Reject them. Introduce curved sofas, asymmetric rugs, and organic, undulating forms. These pieces celebrate the beauty of fluid lines and proudly defy strict categorization.

Tactile Extravaganza: Joy is something you can feel. Surround yourself with rich velvets, chunky bouclés, and deeply saturated colors that demand an emotional response. It's about creating a sensory-rich hug of an environment that feels both protective and celebratory.

Curated Visibility: Do not hide the things that define you. Dedicate your gallery walls and prominent shelves to storied heritage pieces, queer literature, and art by local creators. When you put your history front and center, you weave your community directly into the fabric of your daily life.

**Article Continued on our Blog
Page @ queerhivemagazine.ca**



PROUD
to be ME!

You track your steps
& sleep, so why aren't
you tracking your
connection?



Moanr™ is the first
relationship app designed for
your total well-being. Tracking
that honors every body and
every identity, encrypted so
only **YOU** see & control your
data. Understand your body,
empower your bonds.

Turn insight into intimacy
with **Moanr™**.

Download for **free** on
Apple & Google Play Stores.



Moanr™ - Your pleasure. Your data. Your health.

www.moanr.app



Shannon's Creations One Build At A Time

Serving: Hamilton & surrounding regions

"Hi, I'm Shannon! I create custom wood patio furniture and kayak stands designed to fit your space and style. I'm passionate about quality work and great customer service, and I'd love to help bring your ideas to life."

Bringing friends and family together
"One Vision at a Time"

SPECIALIZE IN:

- Custom Patio Furniture
- Kayak Stands
- Crafts
- Wood art & signs



SCAN ME!

CONTACT US



289-921-5496

Follow me on Facebook

@Shannon'sCreationsOneBuildAtATime

Love
Wins



Global Queen **GETAWAYS**

Travel with Confidence. Live like Royalty.

Out of Office, Into Your Power:

Why Barbados is Our Ultimate Sandbox for Radical Joy



By Tasha Morrison, Travel Consultant

Let's be honest, Hive. June gets all the credit with its corporate rainbows and pride parades. But when July rolls around, the cis-het world collectively puts its ally flags back in the closet and goes back to business as usual.

Well, we don't stop.

Welcome to the post-Pride glow-up, where the real assignment begins: Radical Joy. As we move into July, the calendar brings us to a beautiful, expansive marker: July 14th, International Non-Binary Peoples Day. If June teaches us to speak up, July 14th reminds us to celebrate the gorgeous spaces in between. Travel, at its best, is beautifully fluid and non-binary. You drop the rigid definitions of back home and just exist.



HQ for The Queer Agenda: The Club Barbados

To execute a proper radical reset, you need a base of operations that understands the assignment. Enter **The Club Barbados Resort & Spa** in Holetown. This adults-only, all-inclusive paradise nestled on the Platinum Coast is the ultimate sanctuary. The vibe here is wonderfully social yet deeply relaxing—pure grown-up energy. The resort is incredibly welcoming to the 2SLGBTQI+ community, meaning you can book a king-sized bed or a couples' massage at the spa without an ounce of travel anxiety. I will tell you first-hand, I don't think I've ever received such a high level of hospitality in my lifetime. I've been to hundreds of resorts and by far, this magical place has the best staff on the planet. ALWAYS a good morning, good evening and goodnight from the bartenders, servers to the spa, to the random monkeys that scurry through the resort.



The Club Barbados Resort & Spa

Rihanna's Childhood Home, Rhianna Drive



Finding Fenty: From Rihanna Drive to One Sandy Lane

You cannot do a proper Bajan pilgrimage without paying respects to the ultimate Queen of radical joy: **Rihanna**. I started by visiting her childhood home on the newly renamed Rihanna Drive in Bridgetown.

It's a humble, brightly painted green and yellow house with a monument right in the sidewalk, and standing there gives you absolute chills thinking about the sheer talent that exploded out of that neighborhood.

But the real fun was driving over to the West Coast to witness her epic, "moving on up to the East Side" Jeffersons-style glow-up. She upgraded from that cozy family street to a sprawling mansion at One Sandy Lane, an ultra-exclusive, hyper-luxury compound where the balconies look like palatial fortresses and the security looks like they don't even let the ocean water splash too loud.

Seeing that trajectory from childhood roots to billionaire beach fortress is the ultimate inspiration for taking up space and living unapologetically in my head! Barbados is ringed by turquoise water so bright it looks like it has an Instagram filter permanently applied to it.



One Sandy Lane, Rhianna's Fortress

While the West Coast serves up calm luxury, I spent an incredible afternoon at **Brandons Beach**, just outside Bridgetown. It has a fantastic, spacious, local feel with soft white sand. Did I achieve her level of effortless, billionaire-pop-star energy while walking out of the surf? Look, my attempts at moving in slow motion looked less like a Savage X Fenty ad and more like a very enthusiastic sea lion trying to find its towel. But that's the beauty of radical joy—it's about taking up space and letting the ocean wash away the burnout.



Brandon's Beach



Drunk On History & Drama: Island Exploring

You cannot talk about Barbados without talking about rum. A tour and tasting at **Mount Gay Rum** is mandatory cultural research—and conveniently located right across the road from Brandons Beach. Our guide walked us through centuries of history, and by the time we got to the tasting, I learned that high-quality Bajan rum contains notes of vanilla, banana, and an overwhelming desire to block your boss on all platforms.

When you finally pull yourself away from the glass, the northern and eastern parts of the island offer a masterclass in dramatic landscapes:

- **St. Nicholas Abbey:** Built in 1658, this spectacular plantation house and rum distillery features stunning Jacobean architecture that feels like stepping back in time. Don't forget to do the train ride, you won't regret it!
- **Cherry Tree Hill:** Sitting 850 feet above sea level on the Abbey's border, it delivers a panoramic view of the rugged Scotland District and the roaring Atlantic Ocean.



Cherry Tree Hill Lookout

- **Farley Hill National Park:** A grand 19th-century mansion destroyed by fire in the 1960s, its stone ruins now stand beautifully surrounded by lush tropical gardens and royal palms. This is where most of the big events happen in the community. FLOW Soca On



Farley Hill National Park Lookout

De Hill is one of the most highly anticipated events of the Barbadian Crop Over Festival. The massive soca party is scheduled this year for Sunday, July 26, 2026

Money Matters: The Basic Math

Navigating the financial side of your vacation is incredibly easy, but there's one major local quirk you need to know before you start tossing cash around.

The local currency is the **Barbados Dollar (BBD)**, which is pegged to the US Dollar at a perfect **2:1 ratio**. This means \$1 USD is always worth \$2 BBD. It makes the vacation math wonderfully simple: just cut any price tag in half to know what it costs in US funds.

While US currency is widely accepted all over the island, **local businesses really do not like US \$1 bills**. In fact, many shops and vendors will outright refuse them, preferring to skip a sale entirely rather than accept a wrinkled single. The Central Bank of Barbados even had to issue an official statement addressing the island-wide rejection of the humble greenback single! If you are bringing US cash for tips or small purchases, leave the ones at home and bring \$5s, \$10s, and \$20s instead. Just remember that whatever US bills you hand over, you will almost always get your change back in Barbadian dollars.

The Tea On Local Laws, Culture, and Safety

Barbados has made massive strides, making it one of the safest and most progressive Caribbean destinations for 2SLGBTQI+ tourists.

- **The Legal Landscape:** Barbados struck down its colonial-era "buggery" laws in 2022 and fully repealed them in 2024, fully legalizing same-sex intimacy. Employment discrimination based on sexual orientation has been strictly illegal since 2020. Same-sex marriage isn't legally recognized yet, but the momentum is moving forward.

- **The PDA Rule:** Barbados is an inherently traditional, religious society. Culturally, public displays of affection (like heavy kissing or intense hand-holding) are frowned upon for all couples, regardless of orientation. Keep the spicy stuff for your suite at The Club.
- **The Camouflage Ban:** While packing your best resort wear, leave the camouflage at home—it is strictly illegal for civilians to wear any camo patterns, which are legally reserved for the military. I learned this the hard way when I rolled off the plane in my cozy camo "airplane pants." I didn't even make it past customs before a sharp-eyed official spotted me and firmly directed me to change. Cue a frantic, humbling quick-change in the airport restroom before I was allowed to step out into the sunshine. Learn from my public embarrassment, Hive: Keep the camo out of your suitcase!

Nightlife & Navigating The Island

If you are looking for a glittering neon sign that says "GAY BAR," you won't find it here. Instead, the island's nightlife is beautifully integrated. The 2SLGBTQI+ community moves seamlessly through mainstream spots like **St. Lawrence Gap** for high energy, or **Holetown** for chic cocktail lounges. To find inclusive pop-up events and curated parties, check online with advocacy groups like **Equals Barbados** or local promoters like **Nova Luna Events** on Instagram.



St. Lawrence Gap

Getting around is part of the fun:

- **Taxis:** Unmetered, so always confirm the price (and whether it's USD or BBD) before getting in.
- **Renting a Car:** Freedom is great, but remember they drive on the left, roundabouts require nerves of steel, and the potholes are legendary.
- **The ZR Vans:** White, privately owned public minivans that play incredibly loud dancehall music, pack in double the capacity, and drive like they're auditioning for an action movie. Chaotic, cheap, and hilarious.



The Ultimate Friday Night: Oistins Fish Fry

For integrated Bajan joy in its purest form, you must go to the **Oistins Fish Fry** on Friday night. It is a glorious sensory overload of open-air grills, fresh flying fish, and heavy reggae beats. The main stage dance floor brings together everyone—locals, tourists, aunties, and travelers of every identity. Watching a Bajan grandmother completely out-dance a group of twenty-somethings while holding a plate of macaroni pie is the exact energy of post-Pride resistance. Try the lobster, you won't regret it!



Lobster Meal from Oistins Fish Fry Friday Nights

What's Next in The Hive

Now that we've conquered the sun and rum, it's time to look ahead to our next collective adventure inside the Hive: the ultimate **"Dude Ranch"** experience.

Trading the oceanfront for wide-open spaces and cowboy boots might sound surprising, but this anomaly is a masterclass in high-end luxury. Think gourmet ranch-to-table dining, private guided trail rides through breathtaking valleys, and glamping tents with heated floors and massive soaking tubs. It's the perfect playground for channeling your inner pioneer royalty and serving immaculate western fashion. Stay tuned for the full breakdown!

Ready for Your Own Reset?

Global Queen Getaways is currently booking amazing, tailored adventures to Barbados. Let us handle the logistics while you focus on the joy. Email us at **tasha@globalqueengetaways.ca** to get started.

To browse the latest exclusive deals and hidden gems for Barbados and other stunning tropical escapes, check out the **DREAM DEALS** catalogue for the best rates from all major carriers at **<https://bit.ly/GQGDreamDeals>**.





DREAM DEALS

YOUR CARIBBEAN, YOUR WAY.

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/GQGDREAMDEALS](https://bit.ly/gqgdreamdeals)

RADICAL JOY

learning to love messy life

By Stalin Fernandez Gil



I'll be completely real with you, life is a rollercoaster. I've had plenty of days where I felt like just another lonely guy trying to get through the week. I'm learning about something called radical joy. It just means choosing to feel good and happy, even when things around me aren't perfect.

I used to think that to be happy, I needed good things in life. No bad days, no lonely nights, no stress. But that's impossible, there are always things in life that we don't have control over and that is what shapes who we are.

Embracing the mess knowing that things will always get better.

The hardest part of this journey has been learning to like the guy looking back at me in the mirror. I spent years thinking, "I'll be happy when I get a boyfriend," or "I'll be happy when I look a certain way."

Waiting for someone else to make me happy is exhausting. Joy is looking at myself today and saying, "You are enough." I'm learning to be my own best friend first.

Life is way too short to waste energy on people who drain you or make you feel small.

I don't need a massive crowd of friends. I just want to surround myself with a few solid people who genuinely see me. I want the ones who laugh at my bad jokes, the chosen family who checks on me when I go quiet, and the friends who let me be myself. When your circle is full of love, the world feels a lot less lonely.

At the end of the day, joy is a choice I have to make every single morning. It's about looking at my life and loving it anyway. I'm proud of how far I've come, I love the people in my corner, and I'm learning to just breathe and enjoy the moment.

Stalin Fernandez Gil: *Just another lonely guy in this world, learning to love the life I've built.*



Resist Normative Relationship Expectation



By Skyler Fury

Polyamory; *what is it?* I've heard it's a cry for attention. I've heard it's a phase. Or my favourite, a greedy selfish excuse to sleep around. This writer couldn't disagree more.

Polyamory, by definition, is maintaining a committed, romantic, and sometimes sexual relationship with multiple people. I see it as a selfless, awakened realization that love has no limits.

There are so many lonely people in need of love and care. People don't realize how open and honest you must be to maintain multiple relationships. I think it's very important to be open and honest in a relationship. Sexual preferences, financial standing, monogamous or open, children or no children; all very important things to talk about. Without communication, relationships tend to fall apart.

When my partner and I got together, we spent a lot of time with this guy. We would pick him up from college, go to his school events, go on day trips, and talk with him for hours about his partners. It was nonsexual and felt really nice just having him around. One day he picked up and left due to some drama at home. It was a difficult time for all of us, and thankfully he had a safe place to escape to.

When he was gone, I started feeling like there was something or rather someone missing. I talked to my hubby, and he said he felt the same way. I had many questions running through my mind. Questions that many other people would ask us later. Is this just an excuse to sleep around? Could I get over feeling like I was being disloyal to my hubby, even when he consents to it? Would we be dating different people or the same person? How would we make sure the other person didn't feel left out? We talked about it, and we decided to have a polyamorous relationship and find a third.

We made sure to be very clear with our expectations. We only date a single person at a time, and we only date together. We don't date someone if we both don't agree, and if the person is into one of us more than the other, we stop seeing that person.

We talked to many boys. We received a lot of sexual requests. Many of the guys who were interested ghosted us after hearing we had HIV. It wasn't like we were hiding that fact. Every dating profile we had showed our status. I guess people tend to not read other people's bios. We had several guys tell us that our status didn't matter to them. They agreed to meet up with us, then left us waiting. A small few would contact us, not because they were interested, but because they were curious. As previously stated, they would ask the same questions I had for myself.

Article Continued on our Blog Page
@ queerhivemagazine.ca



Queer Hive Magazine and True Voice Review Launch LGBTQIA Book Review Feature

Queer Hive Magazine is proud to announce a new collaboration with True Voice Review to spotlight books written for, by, and about the LGBTQIA community.

This new feature will bring thoughtful, reader-focused book reviews to Queer Hive Magazine, helping connect LGBTQIA authors with readers who are looking for stories that reflect their lives, expand their understanding, and celebrate the diversity of queer voices.

From fiction and memoir to poetry, nonfiction, romance, fantasy, young adult, and beyond, we want to help bring attention to books that speak to LGBTQIA experiences, identities, struggles, joy, history, resilience, and imagination.

Authors who have written books for the LGBTQIA community are encouraged to submit their titles for review consideration through True Voice Review. Selected reviews may be featured in Queer Hive Magazine, giving authors another opportunity to reach an audience that values authentic storytelling and community-centered voices.

True Voice Review is committed to offering honest, professional, and meaningful reviews that serve readers first while helping authors gain visibility in a crowded marketplace.

LGBTQIA authors and authors of LGBTQIA-centered books are invited to submit their work for consideration by emailing: **truevoicereview@outlook.com**

Please include your book title, a pdf of the book, author name, genre, a short description of the book, and any relevant purchase or website links.



TRUE VOICE REVIEW



Outstanding / Must Read: A beautifully voiced, emotionally resonant mythic novella with a daring premise, memorable character work, and a powerful queer-affirming reframing of Eden.

Purchase Here

<https://buff.ly/wnPmWCu>



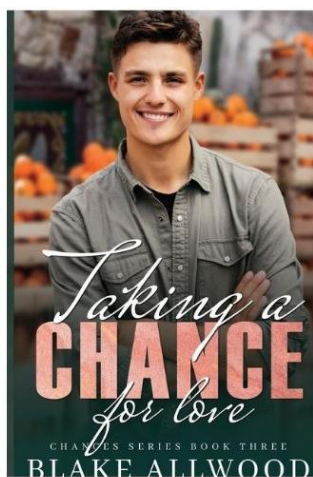
TRUE VOICE REVIEW

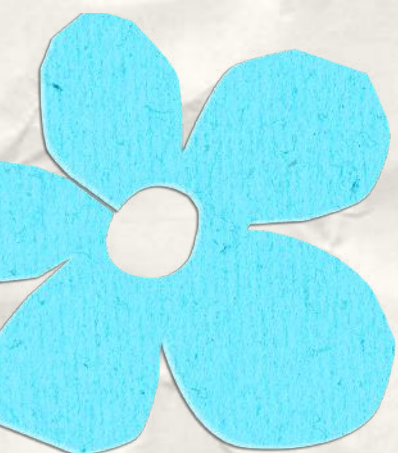


Strongly Recommended: A heartfelt and accessible M/M romance with strong emotional stakes, a vivid grove setting, and meaningful attention to grief and trust, though some readers may find its familiar tropes and introspective pacing less surprising.

Purchase Here

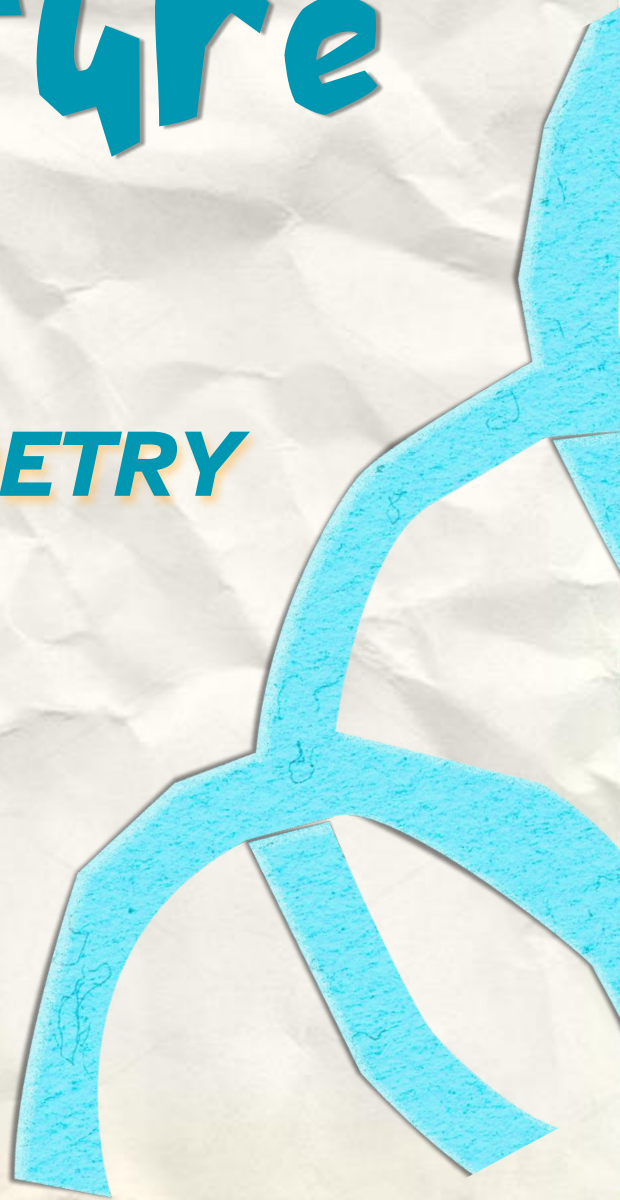
<https://buff.ly/9bvMW9h>





Literature

FICTION & POETRY



I want to hold your hand
When we're doing errands
And kiss you on the cheek
My feelings beyond question

I want to love you loudly,
For all the time we've lost,
To scream it from the hilltop
No matter what the cost

I want to take our picture
And post it for display
Showing off our smiles
Happy, in love and gay

But cruelty; it surrounds us,
Unwarranted though it is,
And affirms the need for safety
Two lovers can only give

In your arms the world goes quiet
The bigots have no voice
They've labeled our love as wrong
Without giving us a choice

The only part of us that's wrong
Is the opinion that some have
Two women who love each other
Must certainly be mad

-Cari King

Cari King (she/they) is a poet from Truro,
Nova Scotia



"I AM A HOUSE BUILT ON A BORDER"

By: Nick Harpham

One room painted in moonlight,
one room painted in dawn,
and every day I wake up
to people demanding I choose
which side is my home.

They point at my heart
like it is a courtroom,
like love is evidence,
like attraction is a confession.

"You're just gay."

They say it so casually,
as if they know me better than I know
myself.

As if every woman I've loved
was a shadow.

As if every feeling I carried
was a lie dressed in different clothes.

Then others look at me
and see a future betrayal.

A woman hears I am bi
and suddenly I become a risk,
a warning label,
a storm cloud over a relationship
that hasn't even begun.

They imagine invisible men
waiting in every corner.
They mistake my capacity for love
for an inability to commit.

As if loyalty and attraction
are the same thing.



As if having more than one
language
means you cannot tell the
truth.

And somewhere between
those voices,
I start to disappear.

I become two people.

The one they think I am,
and the one I spend every
night
trying to hold together.
There are days I feel split
down the middle,
like a photograph torn by
angry hands.

One half reaching toward
softness.
One half reaching toward
understanding.

Neither half feeling complete.

I have spent years staring into
mirrors,
wondering if confusion and
identity
look the same from a distance.

Wondering why something so
natural
could feel so lonely.

Because nobody talks about
this part.

The exhaustion.

The way your existence
becomes a debate
between people who have
never met you.
The way strangers build
prisons
out of assumptions
and then ask why you look
trapped.

I carry love and resentment
inside the same chest.

Love for who I am.

Resentment for how hard it
has been
to simply exist as that person.

I love that my heart recognizes
beauty
without asking permission.

I love that I have felt connection
in places others never expected.

I love that my soul never learned
how to close doors.

But I hate the suspicion.

The jokes.

The questions.

The way people examine my
identity
like a flaw in a product.

The way I have had to explain
myself
a thousand times
and still leave conversations
feeling unseen.

Being bi feels like standing
with one foot on each shore
while the ocean keeps trying
to pull you apart.

Too queer for some people.

Too straight for others.

Never enough of one thing
to satisfy anyone else's
definition.

Always enough to carry the
weight of it.

Sometimes it feels like a
curse.

Not because of who I am.

But because of what the world
chooses to do with it.

Because every rejection leaves
fingerprints.

Every stereotype leaves
bruises.

Every doubt becomes another
voice
living rent-free inside your
head.

Yet somehow,
it is also a blessing.

Because my heart has learned
that love is bigger than
categories.

Because I have seen beauty
through more than one
window.

Because I know what it feels
like
to belong nowhere
and still keep searching for
belonging.

Because surviving
misunderstanding
teaches you how to recognize
the lonely people in a crowd.

And because there is
something sacred
about refusing to become
smaller
for someone else's comfort.

So if I seem conflicted,
it is because I have spent
years
being told I am impossible.

If I seem wounded,
it is because I have spent
years
walking through rooms
where people discussed my
existence
instead of my humanity.

If I seem strong,
it is only because I learned
how to carry heartbreak
without letting it turn me
cruel.
I am not half of anything.

I am not confused.

I am not indecisive.

I am not a future betrayal.

I am not a phase,
a trend,
a stepping stone,
or a mistake.

I am simply a man
whose heart learned more
than one way
to recognize love.

And some nights,
when the world becomes
quiet,
I stop listening to the voices
that tell me I am broken.

I place my hand over my
chest.

I feel every contradiction,
every scar,
every beautiful complication.

And for a moment,
the war inside me ends.

For a moment,
the two people everyone
insists I must be
sit down beside each other.

And I realize
they were never enemies.

They were always me.

THIS IS ME

I knew something was different about me when I was twelve. Girls were cute, but boys “really” turned my attention. They stole my curiosity, they made me think about them ALL the time.

When I was 16, I knew I had to do something about it, so I did.

Since that unforgettable night, I’ve walked in and out of the shadows for decades, hiding what I believed was a growing need to fulfill what felt so right, for me.

I used to wonder, “Am I a mess? Am I walking in sin?” Maybe, and maybe it is something I truly need to reconcile, to “fix” about me someday. But maybe not.



By: A Gay Guy Incognito

I hide, I cower, I whisper, but I continue to dream.
I long, I thirst, I suffer, I need.
I live the most curious part of my life in darkness,
like a slithering, scared little worm, but I dream.
I dream all the time.

Will I figure myself out someday?
Can I make it all work?
Can I be forgiven for the things that I’ve done,
for all my secret rendezvous,
for all my wicked imaginations?

I guess time will tell,
but time is fleeting,
SO fleeting,
as life drifts away from us all before we ever really get the chance to live.



ETERNAL

By: Tiff

Some days, it's so dark inside my head that I can't find the light.

Some days, I wonder if I can continue this fight.

With each passing day, I come more into my own, one little slip and it feels like I take two steps back.

The more I fight, the more I fall and wonder if I'll get up again.

Around me, the world keeps burning, forever turning.

There are days I want to stay still and not move, but they're calling me, even in my sleep.

There is work to be done, voices to be amplified.

Whispers to be heard, cries in the night, that no one else hears. So, I get up again.

I move through the fog, I push past the pain.

I will breathe again; I will keep on rising.

This is who I am, no matter what they say,

I won't hide away. I'll keep being loud.

Won't matter how dark it gets.

Won't matter how bleak the fight.

Won't matter how hot the flame,

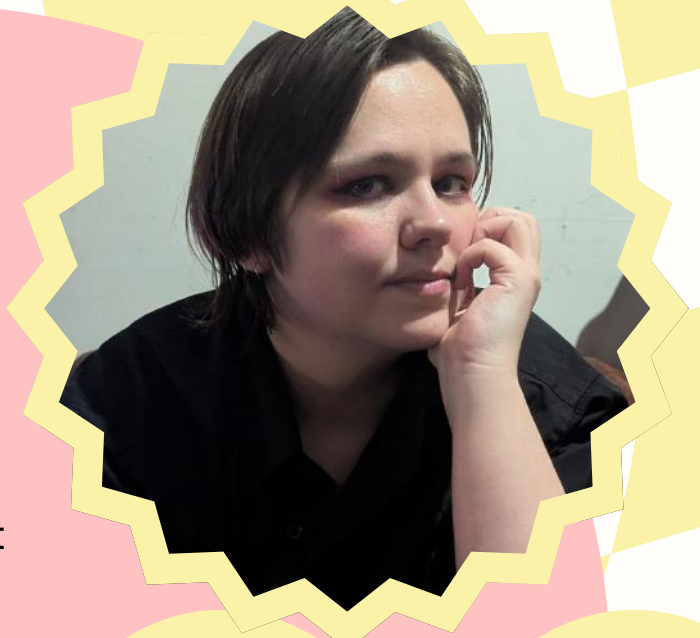
or how fast the world turns.

I will remain; I am eternal.

ONE DAY

By: Tiff

One day, I'll shout out my truth
And it won't matter what you say.
You can tell them you don't
remember
Or you can tell them I'm crazy.
All that will matter to me
Is getting out the words,
Getting out the pain,
So it's not trapped inside my brain.
You can run from what you did
You can hide; you can distract
yourself.
I don't care, not one bit, not any
more.
Have fun with your gold digger.
Don't cry to me when it all fades.
It would have been easier
To work on yourself then
Play this long charade.
Now, you're too late, my truth is free.
The pain you caused me,
It's there for the world to see
Before I said a single thing.
So, my words will paint a much
More completed picture and
You will just have to sit with the
facts:
You fucked up royally this time.



Tiffany Ambrose is a Queer, Neurodivergent, writer and stay-at-home parent living in Ontario. They prefer to be called Tiff and per is also polyamorous. Per writes from the heart when it comes to poetry and from life experience, letting the thoughts flow out raw and often untouched same with when writing other pieces. Other genres per enjoys writing are fantasy, romance, and a little hint of mystery woven in.

X-RATED

Ahead:

Nude

Photography

from the

Rainbow

Boudoir

A Short Story

from:

Timotheus

Arlys

And More!

Come as you are...



Leave *iconic*



We are an empowering,
positive experience-driven
photographer in Buffalo NY.
We focus on representation of
all gender identities in boudoir
& kink art.


Rainbow Boudoir

RainbowBoudoir.com
Buffalo, NY

D.T. ELECTRICITY

By: O aka Otoniel Trujillo II



The eternal shaking is just as bad as the outer shaking. You breathe and try to catch your breath or try to keep up rhythm so your heart doesn't explode like a spouse's divorce. You want "it" to stop so bad. Any magical drink can't fix this. No scratch can get to its core called an Itch. It's a bitch on every inch of your bloody precious body.



It all started when Billy went to his first gay bar. It was the late 80's and all there was to do was drink at the local gay bar or park. Of course not every hung homosexual went out hunting but definitely 99.9% did. Billy was an in the closet cocksucker buttfucker. Just like 99.9% of gay men were unless you were born with high heels on and lipstick. Which just meant you were one tough bitch and no one was gonna fuck with you. Only the Trans and Drag Queen community had the balls to tell anyone if not everyone to step forward and speak up. Be full of pride no matter what. Sure you might lose your job but not your dignity, "honey!"

The family Billy was raised into was "conservative ". The family dynamics were strict, and basic. You married your high school boyfriend or girlfriend and forever together happily they would live. There was no room for homosexuality, nor was even sex talk growing up. If you don't talk sex with your child he or she could get pregnant or HIV. Drugs and alcohol were alive and kicking though also never talked about. Grandpa and Dad were drunks but there's no talking about it.



It was common at the time not to discuss sex or drugs, just “when is your next grand-baby coming?!” It runs in the family and predisposition is your job to warn, protect your own blood.



Billy was so deep in the closet he refused to talk to his parents or siblings after age 17. It was easy for him to party because no one seemed to care or dare accept his authentic self. It was like a big dick dream. It was 1987 and he was at the "18 & up" bar three to four times a week. To sober up after "Drown night," Billy along with many drunk men would hit the local sex arcade. Free coffee and a five dollar ticket you could stay until the sun came up. Safe zone? More like the Twilight Zone. This is where Billy contracted the HIV virus that caused AIDS and killed many within months. Years went on and Billy kept his HIV status a secret. It wasn't until at age 25 on his death bed that Billy spoke of his personal war on AIDS. No pills, no lifesaving chemicals. Billy went into heavy alcohol withdrawal that led to delirium tremors. The shakes of all shakes. The kind that could kill a person if not medically treated.

**Continued on our Blog Page
@ queerhivemagazine.ca**



A portrait of Daniel Evans, a man with short brown hair, glasses, and a full beard made of blue glitter. He is looking upwards and to the right.

DANIEL

EVANS

DEFORMPHOTOS

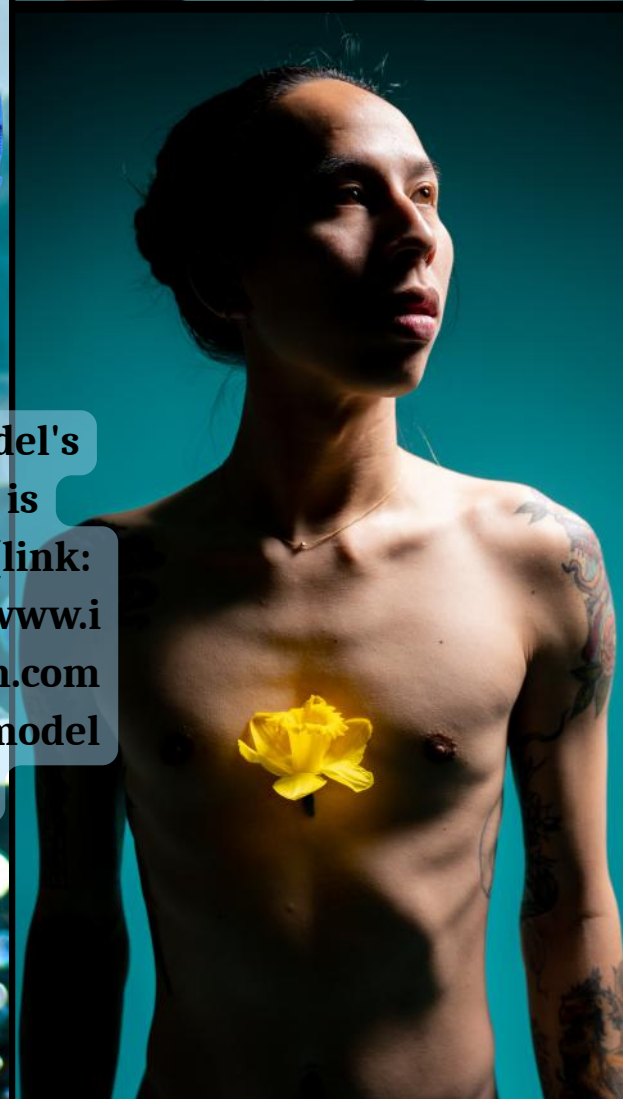
My links:

<http://deformphotos.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/deformphotos/>

Bio:

deformphotos is a gay artist in Seattle, WA exploring photography with a focus on illustrating the inherent beauty, sensuality, hilarity and joy in the candid. He shows his subjects as they truly are in a way that seems often ignored in erotic art. Curated with the belief that everyone deserves to be celebrated for their own beauty, he maintains an openness to cultivating authentic representation while maintaining a minimalist style.



The model's name is

Truong (link: <https://www.instagram.com/truongmodel/>)

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS

Queer Hive Magazine is constantly on the lookout for fresh voices and perspectives. If you're interested in getting involved, we're currently seeking the following:

- Article Writers
- Photographers
- Book Reviewers
- Artists
- Podcasters
- And more!

Please send your submissions to **queerhivemagazine@gmail.com** or visit **queerhivemagazine.ca** for more information. We're excited to hear from you!





Connecting with a Dynamic Community

Advertise in Queer Hive Magazine to Reach a Diverse Audience

Advertise with Queer Hive Magazine

Are you looking to reach a vibrant and diverse audience with your business or service? Look no further than **Queer Hive Magazine**! We understand that budgets can be tight, which is why we're thrilled to offer our advertising services at an incredibly affordable rate for everyone.

Affordable Advertising Rates

At Queer Hive Magazine, we believe in inclusivity and accessibility, so we have a flat rate for all ad sizes. Take advantage of our unbeatable pricing:

- **Single Month:** \$20
- **2 Months:** \$40
- **6 Months:** \$100
- **12 Months:** \$200

Why Choose Queer Hive Magazine?

Queer Hive Magazine is dedicated to delivering engaging and relevant content to the 2SLGBTQ+ community and its allies. By advertising with us, you'll tap into a loyal readership that's passionate about supporting inclusive brands.

Get Started Today!

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your brand to a receptive, enthusiastic audience. Email us at queerhivemagazine@gmail.com to get your Advertising agreement and to get started on your advertising journey with Queer Hive Magazine. Let us help you make your mark!



queerhivemagazine.ca



www.marriott.com



queerroyaltea.ca

PROUD
MEMBER



PILLAR
nonprofit network

pillarnonprofit.ca



[@hannsolophotos](https://www.instagram.com/hannsolophotos)



honeydipbar.com



prideradiocanada.com