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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Olivia N

Olivia N 00:02

Today is February 1 2023. I'm Olivia Newsome interviewing Indigo virtually over zoom. Do I have permission to record this interview? Yes. Do you know you can stop recording at any time? Yes. Can you say your name, age and pronouns?

00:20

My name is Cindy. I have 24 years so and I entered for you. So am I bronze star datum? How would you describe yourself? Excellent question. Um, I think that I'm a person that really tries their hardest to just go 40s. And to be like, Kai, and try to understand people, in a lot of ways, doesn't do that I try for a lot. Um, I like to be caring. I like to be like myself all the time when I can. And just be held there. And I have a good energy around me, even for myself or for other people.

Olivia N 01:02

So can you tell me where you're from? Where you grew up and what your childhood was like?

01:08

Okay, I'm, I'm from Dominican Republic, I grew up there, and Ontario in my 20s, under my 20 year, and Denise, like, regarding my sexuality was kind of hard. It was kind of difficult. And we are because I didn't know for a long time, until I had 90, in the sense that I didn't know because I was like, not trying to assert that part of myself. So it was weird. Like, if I just separate my sexuality, from my culture, I had a good experience. But the thing is, like, I don't feel like I can do that. So I have a lot of things of like, also like getting experience until recently. Like, I know, then in another facet, or another phase of what it is, when I combined those two things, but before it was like, I just had like one month of what was happening. And also I'm bad. But yeah, also I grew up in a religious house household. So that influenced a lot of my childhood and my early 20s, too. So yeah.

Olivia N 02:16

What was your relationship with your parents like growing up?

02:21

It was complicated, really complicated. Like, my family is really complicated family because my parents, they divorced, they had a really like, intense and Biolase some way not physically, but mentally divorced. So all the other things are happening motion that when I was 17. When that happened, it was like really hard, because that influenced a lot of the ways that I see myself in a lot of the ways that I interact with them. Like, I know that I didn't, I wasn't allowed, in some way to be myself to express how I wanted to dress what I wanted to do how I wanted to do it, because it was always like, Oh, no, you're going to look like, in my father's words, like, you're going to like, I like a hurry to do that. Or you're going to be like those people, whatever they like. So it was always like all the things that I like, I enjoy doing how I like to prepare myself were like, really? Not not something that I could do. So yeah, for me, it was equally it has been a long process. Until now. Like you just reflect about them. Like how I interact with them, because I cannot be myself for the most part. I cannot really like that sits there. But yeah.

Olivia N 03:48

So did you have any siblings? Yeah. What was that? Like? Are you close with them? Were you close with them at the time,

03:56

I was closer to them another time. I have more I have more segments, I have more buddies. From both of my parents, I have three more their health for my dad. And the genies like, those three helps evenings, I don't have any relationship with them, even now. And before. Also, it was the same thing. With my little brother. It's complicated because it's kind of the same thing. Like I'm not kinda like the black sheep. And that tells me my family in some ways, because I can be like good in, in grades and all the things that are expected, quote unquote, from me, in the sense of what is expected to someone to be successful. But in it, these are socially success added on to that cycle. So my brother has kind of the same issues as my mom. And it's kind of complicated for me to have a relationship with him because I don't feel comfortable. I cannot be myself. I cannot do things I cannot stress how I feel. It's always apparent so it's like even and to happen before also. It's just like what I worth worrying about you just get worse and worse and worse with the nice. Oh, yeah. So

Olivia N 05:09

can you talk about growing up in a religious household? You mentioned it briefly how it was hard for you, but what religion? Did you grow up? Yeah. And what was it like?

05:21

Okay, so I Roman Catholic household that is like the Dominican version of Catholicism. It was hard because I had so many things that probably had to be how we have to dress how I have to add. It was even like a way that I had to repress myself for a long time. Because I was just doing what everyone wanted me like being the good girl and being like, even I don't consider myself that way. Right now. It was like being the good girl and be like the person that was already having good grades, something I'm either in the short, and like, having a lot of influence something that really gives me a hard time right now. Because it's where they feel guilty for a lot of things that I lead as a teenager, even if it was not my fault, because I was a teenager, and I was being controlled as everyone else. Like it really is a complicated relationship. The hypes they still have, like religious term is something that it's going to be

through to Sunday, but right now, it's like it's there. And so it was really hard, because like, I didn't feel like I have I had in that time, like the, the freedom to just access. And that's something that is really important for me right now. So even if I wasn't all gladly, like, being as bad, at least by my parents, they didn't directly tell me that. I was only like, understanding that because we the things of how they react with might be more queer people in general, highly Riyadh, the French people, like how they were founded and how it was like, almost as a myth. And no, no, just like a normal identity that everyone can have. It was kind of weird. I mean, they were sure she was just worse. Because even if I have feelings or things like that, that maybe I haven't seen process, like, I couldn't, like, reflect that. So I just had, I remember that in research, I have a lot of things that relationships, and even in my life in general, worse, like that was something that I always loved reading. And probably right now Oh, meaning cinders. I'm gonna be like, Yeah, bro. Like, in that moment. But I always remember like, the the conflict that I had, because it was like, a lot of times a lot of the girls that were there in those groups were like, Yeah, that was like a scene that I did, because I wasn't a girl. And I was like, wait, no, even if at that time, I had this thing of 70 I was like, No, that's not to say like, that's stupid. I swipe. But the thing is, I never applied for myself. I could never like fathom the idea. Like maybe I was spiritual. Like I was a lesson that to me, I'll really long time because I knew that the moment that I, I could like entertain that idea. It will be open for me and I could no longer like, get that insight and be like anything happening? Because I think that I have personal so yeah. Like that it was a lot of my stealing influence or a lot of my personality and how I interacted with some people for the trauma lottery. Haha, that.

Olivia N 08:23

So we're gonna talk a little bit about school. Yeah, so what was middle school? Like? Did you like it? Like,

08:36

it's good. For me. It's kind of the worst times, like, because I didn't know like how I resigned, I didn't know how I was treated. I didn't like how I was perceived. They was perceiving us I grew up I was kind of nerdy. And that I always was, like, always my other, even unconsciously was like trying to get a boyfriend, which is ridiculous for me right now. But it wasn't like I have to, like do something in to get away from because that's like this, the social status that I'm going to get if I get that and probably people are going to be let me also remember that in my home country. One of the things that I still remember is that someone was like, Yeah, I'm the total girl because probably she's a lesbian. And just like stuff, I don't remember that vividly. I was like 13, or something like that. So I knew that from the moment that I could never in my mind like, oh my Yeah, I like your and I remember that. You're still I laugh about that. DeRosa you're there I like a lot that some years after my 20s 20 Wow. Looks like oh, so I like that girl. For a lot of people. I kind of hate her. My really just like her. I didn't know how to express them. So I was really upset with her. I was really trying to like, get him to know things about her. Even if I wasn't her friend. Or from the distance I wasn't like oh my god, I want to like you be referred in some way, even if I didn't understand what was happening until we one of the sort of that that really made me laugh. It was one day she would I think that she did something for her like cheap diet beat or something like that in my school. That was, for me, that was pretty good. So I remember vividly that I was talking to another girl at that time that I can be that was my best friend. And when was like so this person, they did that with their hair. So what do you think about that? And the argument was like, Why do I care? Right. Okay, so yeah, we don't get all that cool. No one wants to let you she was

so grainy. Like, she's so pretty. And she looks so amazing. And how good she looks like right now I know that is that. But in that moment, like, it didn't click it for a long time after that. It was like, it was just like something that happened. And after that, I think there were someone that was asking me like, so do you hate this person? I wasn't like them. I just don't know how I feel that is different. I think a lot of the experiences that I had, and a lot of the religions were like that were they were really intense. And my my relationship with church, it was developing at the same time because I entered the church when I was 14, and I left when I was 18. So it just like all was like sediment and together. And I think that a lot of that influenced how I was like incapable of seeing like, hey, maybe you like girls, or maybe you feel this way because I was just super concentrated in like, trying to get past the things that were happening my house and bring together See also like, these our like just happening in school and how people treat me. So I was like, when they get into that image that people gave me that I was a little person that was trying to be super religious and super good. And also with the boyfriends every time that I had, I tried to have one, it will say I had to make this bill deal of the of that, like I I need that people needed to know that I had a boyfriend I was trying to hide away from the thing is that is super funny to me that even onto my 20s Every time I tried to like do anything, just kissing with her voice, my brain and my body was like, nope. My body was like, I'm sorry. Well, no, we're not gonna do that. So it looks like everything. I did something to like self sabotage. It was kind of interesting. I never understood why. Just after I understood it was like, that made sense. But for a long time, it was like, oh, and that happened in middle school that happening in my job. until like, my 20. That happening a lot of the time. So yeah. It was like, kind of all the things mixed up. So

Olivia N 12:56

what about high school? You mentioned kind of how you were entering the church kind of towards the end of middle school, I guess 14 days? Yeah.

13:07

Yeah. So

Olivia N 13:09

can you talk about your high school experience? Was it really similar to your middle school experience? Where you still try to be like the good pious kid? Who really good in school?

13:18

Yeah, I think that it was kind of worried. Because I know that it was a lot of kids were like just drinking and partying and doing all of those stuff. And I knew that for some reason, even if I know now that I'm gay is less, right. Like, I will force myself to go that the meaning from coercion myself to a lot of other things. I was like, I'm going to isolate myself. So I had a little group of friends that I was with, and I had liturgical time with those people. So I was just having this image I was monitoring you. And I didn't want to because I wanted like, social for a lot of people. I don't want to go and drink. It was kind of funny, because a lot of them were like, Oh my God, you're super cool. But the thing is, like, if you're not with those people, like you could be because I was like, No, I'm fine. Like, a lot of good things were my bad because like, I wasn't sure, I was like being the good girl, or whatever the fuck. And I was having always good range and all of that, and even how I present myself. But I think that a lot. One of the things that I did is I cut my hair and I just left. And Arturo when I was 16, and also be changed for me

because it was like, the first thing that I need to do is release myself and be quiet for a moment. I remember that they're different things begin to change, like slowly. But even then, like I love the image that people had about me it was like it's still the thing and you're still today there are people who are relieved that that that image is still serving. I like how you look at me and you say that like that doesn't make any sense for me at all. So yeah, like, looks like I'm on the same thing, just more intensified. So,

Olivia N 15:03

can you talk about how gender norms influenced you growing up?

15:09

Yeah. So gender roles were kind of interesting, because I didn't know that I was non binary to a, until one two years ago, I think, I think I began to use they them pronouns, like fully Yeah, it will seem December of 2021. So it was trying to make sure I have one day or use using them. I just started and forcing people to to try to use them. Because before that, I was like, six months using, she may, just for this she before, like, I'm gonna disagree, she doesn't really bother me. So for that reason, I just changed you lay them. And all the journals are like en French, or anything. Like, I just did that. Because it made me feel more comfortable. And I shouldn't say my name, like, between my friends and all that stuff. Just six months ago, I think. Because the team are younger, they had a really good homie for a long time, it still they had, so I'm just trying to buy that. But I remember when I was like, 15 to 18, I really tried to force myself to be hyper feminine, like I tried to use like, high heels, and really short skirts and things that were like super revelatory. And like, don't get me wrong, like, it's not like I don't like that. I really like that stuff. I don't have like either my high heels, right, like the skirts from the dots and all of that. But the thing is waltzing in the way that I was using it, like right now I see those photos. And it's like, I know that I was forcing myself to wear, like, I can see that the skunk or the pitcher, I was also forcing myself to use makeup. And to like, be this version of myself that I am really not like, I like to have my hair short. And you just don't you makeup at all, like maybe artistic makeup, that can be something that I can do, but no like, for everyday something that I enjoy, or painting my nails. Although those kinds of stuff that you have to do because you are a woman, quote unquote, and in my country is like really reinforced that you have to have no hair and use high heels. When you are 15. Principally like in the US, when you were in my countries, when you're 15, you have to begin using high heels because you're not a little woman and you have to use a dress, skirt. And like just person yourself in a way that you're like a warming, quote unquote. So it's really different from how you began after and the things that had a lot of influence on me because for a long time, I didn't allow myself to buy things and were like, permanently. Like I didn't know that for a long time. Until like, one year and a half ago, I began to like, buy clothes for the men's section like that, for me was like, Oh my God, finally I'm doing this. Like that's super you relearning liberating, but I know that even when I told my mom, she was like, I had to process that. And that's really because, like, That's ridiculous, you aren't going to process it using a piece of fucking cloth. Like, that's ridiculous. So for me, it was like, I had to, like, digital stole a lot of the things that to install a lot of the things that my parents have for me, and everyone would hire me. So it wasn't like everyone was trying to enforce those gender norms. And to be like, Dad, you need to do this because if not, you're not going to have a hustler. That's something that they really like to say in American republic. Like if you don't cook, you're not going to have a housemate if you don't like percent freebie and you like treat yourself and you were saying in a typical woman, the way you're not going to have a husband. And you're like, I was always like, have one like, that's my question. If I don't have one

while we were here, because I want to do those things for myself. But these now my agenda is to like half the hustle, whatever, like I don't want that. So you're gonna really have to take me a long time and even right I want to legislate trying to experiment with a lot of the things because there are things on there like dark feminine, but no everything. There are things that made me feel comfortable that things made me like don't feel like me. Where it's like there's a process where I'm trying to like explore and see what it's what I really like and what are the things like that are just imposed on me. I know makeup is one of those things in high heels too. Like I like broad fronts a lot I really like platforms but high heels like with the Tylenol that my chin so it's just like seeing the variance and the things are clicked with me and what do you want things done? Don't so it's just that I'm just exploring with that and see how I feel referent because I know that no matter what I do, people don't see me as my gender because I have personal scars. So, of course, you see me as I wandering and that's really fun. So I just tried to access and to be in the space that I can. And also like I live abroad, I live in France, it's like really kind of hard, like, people just try to perceive you in a different way. So I do the things I agree on at work, I don't do things, depending on how I feel. It's just that. So

Olivia N 20:32

can you talk about how race and ethnicity affected you growing up?

20:38

Well, wherever we're up, like, a person of color, or a person that is black, and it's like, kind of mates, for my parents, and that is something that is really commonly in America Republic, but the thing is that, also our landscape, and in my home country, I am considered why so for a long time, I didn't like perceive my race, because I was just there. I initial teams, like, when I was out of the country, and I was coming into the US, I really particularly remember my mom, like, even if I'm gonna recognize it, it was like, don't try to laugh. Don't try to like, be super like, everything about your emotions in there, because they can do something about it. That's something that I knew from when I was like, 11, that was the first time that I took a plane. Like, don't do this, don't do logic, don't try to like, behave in a way that is really evident that you can do something, you just stay calm, and you're just awake. So that was the locations I really like, was paying attention to that. Even if I didn't know there was that. Also, I had a lot of comments wearing up like, oh my god, like you see, so beautiful nananana it'd be like kind of fetishized by that, by my own family, my my mom, my, my customers, and all of those people like being oh my golly boy going to love you just because you're skiing in the Calabria eyes, which is really disgusting to think about, I know that I also I was still alive, that when I was like coming to Europe, like, Oh my God, they are going to love you for this thing or like, you know, so it's like, kind of weird relationship because, like, for some people, I know that I can be like desirable, quote, unquote, but at the same time, it has created a complex on me, because I feel like when I when I'm with white people, like I feel like less than inherently just being next to them. And I know that there's like kind of a difference, even if a lot of my friends like, they don't see me as that it's kind of weird. Like, I know that I perceive my race, and my head needs to be a lot more now. And I know that also I have this feeling right now that I never see myself in spring, I never see how are they going to compete with every time that I see them. And can people who was being represented in a negative light, it was always like moving drug carriers, or dealers, or delinquents, or all the kinds of stuff that yeah, there are people that are like that unconscious. But that doesn't mean that everyone that so many can use like that. So it was kind of weird. And right now, it's like, I have a different relationship because I tried to like seek out those things

and try to like, have good representation for myself, or to create it myself. But that's something that I tried to write now before it was like, just we are how I was placed in those waters. And when I left the country was even weirder, because, like, I didn't know how to brace myself. So I had like that kind of a cultural shock, we can say, when I arrived from France, because it was like, hardest because I didn't know how people perceive me. I didn't know how to perceive myself and then know how people treat me. So it was really strange. So it happened to me in not in the classical way. I think that allowed me to explain it's just like, mostly mirneasy views for me because even though a lot of the people that are in my country a lot of the time even without wanting it, they make me experience because I don't have the same problem. Or I don't I don't I'm basically like or whatever and he's like yeah, but I'm discriminated also for the same thing. Like between a lot of people so I don't I never know how to place myself. I mean the community also is worse because I have to also shy when I go into there someone here like is this person of interest? Definitely telling question because it's more than just their raises. Is it like they are also raising the weather. They are criticizing me. They see me as a person they see me as a commodity. They see me as a token occasions I came like they can do like, oh yeah, of course. It happened to me before like a lot of people even if they don't realize it, they treat me as occasion and is one of the worst spirits like I feel like a person I hate that In even how we interact with my friends and people that I can, they are people that I can just interact in normally life is just really weird. Like, I never know how to place people or how to say like, they're, they're in this category for me, because I never knowing the first time, I just have to wait and see how they begin. They continue like behaving. So yeah, that impacts a lot those things.

Olivia N 25:29

So can you talk about class and how class impacted you growing up?

25:35

Guys, okay. Pledges just made me like really aware of things that were happening around me because I'm middle class. In the in Dominican Republic, I can relate in the high middle class, we can say because a lot of like theories, I really like differentiate between each one in between each class. Like, I know, a lot of the things that didn't apply to me or they were worse in the sense, like, I had the base stock, I had the opportunity to travel to a lot of places and see some stuff, not everything. But it was like, huh, it was kind of strange. And I know that for a lot of people, unlike rich for them, even if agnostic, that's not the case. But for me, it's like I have some particularities. By this time, I had a little bit of limitations in power and influence, like, my sexuality is in the way that I like, okay, that creates a lot of division. Because in the queer community in the Dominican queer community, there's a lot of division, just my class, because how we experimenting is really different, in the sense that in middle class, is the kind of thing that we don't talk about it, we can know that it's there, we can all see it, but we don't pick our route. And we just left it there. In the low class karoku A lot of the time, like they just offered the easier. And I think that the more you go up in the classes, the the worse is because at least high class like people are willing which they are like, we they've also got suicidal. So I did that in the sense that the more high I am the class, the more I have to convert towards the patient society, and to gender roles and gender norms and all that these are COVID that I have to be a wife, a half of a baby. And at my age, I have to already be married and have a house. I cannot like do the things that I want to do. I have to have a job that is stable. So it's all of those things. I cannot have tattoos, or piercings or doing anything with my hair, or my phone card or something. I cannot do that. Because that's like, like, a high

middle class. For them. It's like I am not allowed for that. But in the same sense. It's really funny because like I Nerys, for them. It's like oh, yeah, just because you're an artist, you have the permission because they don't have anything for you, isn't it? Yeah, they're just like, added they're delusional loves everything. And it's really funny how like, like, they see you. I know that a lot of people say like, oh my god, I love how you noted all of that. And I know that they're just saying that for saying them. Because a lot of the times if they see that in another person guide, you're going to take all of them, like as some of the everything. So yeah, in a lot of sense is like I cannot express my design base in any way, shape, or form, even if it's visible, really visible. Because after I left the country, like I have changed a lot, and it's really visible now. And it's like, they want to assert that they are just like even I know that I have experience like seven six months ago. And you were like I wasn't someone that that and they and they didn't right now, I know we have a lot of like we can say family and it was really interesting because even if they saw that they were a person that is really Max Weber so anything that is a must lesbian that is someone that is non binary that we cannot call the anchor like that, to me is like a crime golden girl. Like that's fucking crime. Even then they were like, No, that's your friend. And that is like, and use that kind of a thing like, oh, well hiring glass. They don't see that they just choose to ignore everything, even if you actually use a lot. Anyway, that image that they have for you had diverged a lot with I think that they're being faced right now. They just say no. So it's like, we're in how I you just blur a lot because I feel like I can make a lot of the times I just have to repress myself and you remind one that she's like You know, you don't talk about that or you don't say that? Or do you try to dissimulate how you are with this person because a lot like, my relatives are trouble. He can be reprogrammed that he knew two days ago, he came by her and presented to all the family, I can do the same thing. And I'm just like, Dude, stop it. To me, that's super annoying, because I have to have a lot of time. I can say teams, because I have to think about Manders and the kids. So super important that and he's really thinker this and he's like, that opens a lot of how I navigate. My lesson is I'm in my non binary learner, because I cannot be like, everyone, I think I've changes but anyone, anybody is going to take you like, seriously, they're going to be like, Yeah, let's do something. Regeneration. I'm just like that. So

Olivia N 30:52

can we talk about how disability affected you growing up?

30:56

Yeah. So this flavor that I have are more like hidden disabilities, things like it specifically depression, anxiety in Providence. So sometime, they were like working, Steve, I don't pop on name for right now. But the thing is, like, I think broadly, I have ADHD, that's really possible. And I have a lot of things that I'm just like super distracted on are really aggregated all the time. Also, I had a lot of periods where I didn't want to, like, go out of your house, or go off to bed, because I don't have the energy to do any of that. Because my depression, they she's just there. She's just existing. And when I think I'm fine, she says like, Hey, I hear. So even if I were like living in a country, that is a typical country, in that it was like, um, like, the time was good all the time. Even then, like, it was really weird. Because I, I didn't have the energy. So I think though, that I've done a lot the things that I need, after with my friends, socializing with people I'm about I socialize more than I tried to put me out there the last years after my 20s after coming here, but before that, it was really hard. Because I didn't like I had a lot of anxiety. For talking to people, I always think that people are going to hate me. So oh, a bad actor, is just like, oh my god, like, I don't want to do this, or I don't feel comfortable. I also someone that is really like, I have the ability to

notice small changes in people and how they interact, or how they behave in their body, all of that. So I think that that gave me a lot of insight. A lot of the times I can manage that better now. But it's like, how I interact with people also how a lot of the things that girls could think of me or even boys, because at that time, like if I was reaching out to me, I was having a hard time. I wasn't having like anxiety. So I was feeling awful. I felt like a failure because I was not like going with everyone. So patients so it was yeah, it was like that. And he's like kind of hard because it still affects me. And I think that you know, so impacting how we signal something our relationship in a romantic relationship because it took me a long time to understand that. That that's just a part of me. And that there are people are going to be okay with that. But there are people that are not going to be okay with that. And then they are going to be like you're at work for that. So it's like yeah, again, complicated. And it took me a long time to just find people that insulted me for that and we're like yeah, I know that you're like that and that's totally fine. So yes.

Olivia N 33:46

So what would you say are who are what influenced you a lot growing up?

33:53

Who are what I've been like the thing that influenced me a lot it was like reading all the time. A lot of fancy words. And you really also like helped me a lot to assert parts of myself because I knew that I discovered in some popular words like I just got recruited characters I even if I didn't know why I will say oh my god, I love this character. So the homie I love manga too. And animation like any measuring something that is still it tells me a lot like it was something that I was always like pleasing myself there and like having that like as my co host shine ale because it was really the only thing that I knew that was like kind of constant in that I could just escape. So I think there are a lot of the things that I see that I can see Amelia are the other things I really helped me growing up because it was it were the only thing that I could be like, you know, like, oh, okay, is there something I really memory was like when I discovered I watched the old bursting on summer days like he was crazy, like you want to know, I just divided. It was so happy with that. And I remember clearly when I saw the CSUN were similar Randles appear. I was like, Oh my God. Like this person.

Olivia N 35:34

I'm sorry. I told her Moon Power Five sorry. I was able to get it. I was like,

35:41

yeah. You know, like the impact that she had. Like the impact that goes through hire me Taylor Uranus. It was my what is the masculine

Olivia N 35:53

with the short hair? Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

35:59

There we go. So remember that clearly? STL I was like, Oh, my God. Like, oh, my Yeah, that was something that really influenced me. And it was like the first group characters or first week couple that I was like, wow, that's really me. And the fact that, for example, who was always like, I think, Jessel back

something like that. They weren't us really changing masculine percent thing. And then like, feminine, Angola was like, Oh, wow. Like, I really love like that. I didn't realize at the time that I I didn't really I tried to be polite. So I was like, Oh, my God, that's. And also like, I think I know a part of myself, because I was like, they have different pronouns, even if they are considered either they use they, he or she sometimes, even whatever they want. I can't see anything more. So I think that that was the first one of the first lines that I see myself in the screen. I was like, Oh, hey, interesting. And also it was relatable, because how it was translated in how it was like a phantom in American media. It's really similar how, how it's presented like in my country and how those things are juggled. So it was like, really, in that sense, really something relatable for me. So yeah. So

Olivia N 37:23

you started realizing your sexuality was different around 19?

37:28

No, earlier? Yeah.

Olivia N 37:31

Can you talk about that process?

37:34

Yeah. So with that, I think that I had a lot of computers, editors actually, like a lot. Because I was, I think that I said that. But it was always upon that I never allow myself onto my team, to say out loud in my head, like, never, I grew say, me and I like, never, that was something that never happened, because I knew that moment that will happen, or that I go, I would allow myself to do that. It will change everything. And secondly, also a heartbreak. Like when I was like thinking I was like, so while I've been seeing my sad like worse, I will say, Oh, that makes me feel better, and makes me feel like more alive. So yeah, this is true. And it will come on browsers because like I listened to church, I had to like learn that way. While I was in a church. I always tried to like have my thing or having a boyfriend because everyone was just like trying to force me into that and to be like, Oh yeah, you are going to have one or also a question but I always thought it was like friends of my older brother was like how do you don't have a boyfriend? You were super beautiful. How do you don't have rover? And like I don't know. Like who knows? I don't think I could have because I don't know what it was like you Stein I'm probably I will be big. Oh, literally like no no no, no, my body would be like this timer. I know I did that a lot of times when I go on something right to happen like if they tried to please me my body would be like no and I just like alone on my mind would be like we're going to move here so the way they on are they understanding in that moment I yeah, I didn't want to even if my in my rant I was yeah I want to that was something that was like happening so it was on process of trying to just I said that and also I think that's something that that made the process easier. It was like when my boys divorce because even if my mom can be kind of difficult with that. She's like gonna call her and she's still learning well my my dad know, like, I know that I might not know something about anything that because my brother when I saw him, he was like, yeah, no one was like, oh your God told me that before that will be easier. Thank you very much thing. I think that my dad that he knew also. So it was like kind of weird. because, like, I think that he made me good. Like I said, he would try to force me or maybe he was the kind of person because sometimes he told me like, I could play with worse. And I was like, women and non binary

people under something to play with. Thank you. Just saying, like, we are people that have fucking feelings. Thank you. So we also don't process for that reason, because I have a church I have. And I was like, in just being on I had to be this kind of person. And you'll be seeing the scanner way. So yeah, it was really strange. And then just a moment, I remember when I asked, I just told myself, like I said, that they might have like, I come out to myself the first time. I was like, after a weekend or some weekends that I was like, really having a hard time because there were some boys or men that I was meeting up with. People that I know, for my, my college, and they were like, friends of one person that I knew. And it was like, yeah, like, I know, like, they want to be with me some capacity. Okay, cool. I'm fine with that. But the thing was, like, every time I was like, No, so it just kept happening, the same thing. And just for that moment, I was trying to consider, I think that I was seeing a counselor. And he was like, okay, so what happens to you? Like, like, that's something that have you contemplate, and maybe that feels like? No, it was intense, because in that moment, then I when I said that, I discovered that I like my best friend like, I'm Rod. So it was in love with my restaurant. I just think like, it just keep me I wasn't, uh, yeah, I'm doing my coming out and come on to my best friend's dorm room. And now come out to one of my reference, actually, we still got a she's really supportive. And then I came out to my mom, and I was like, I like this girl. And I didn't know like, for two or three years, I was really in touch with her. I, for me, my head that we're just having a normal relationship of best friends, which is false. And then he was really intense. Because after that, it was just like I was I really, maybe less we're entering into it says, explore my word and be like, Oh, my God, new case. But the thing is, like, she was pretty demanding with me. So that was no fun. And it really, I think that it really impacted me a lot of the things and how it preserves person after because it took me more time to just understand myself and to realize, Hey, I like this. I don't like this angle, other procedures more time, because like someone that was so close, they told me that yeah, like, like me. And after it wasn't the case, like they were just like, trying to experiment to like resubmit, resume and in some way, is it true? Is that still to a really bad to me? Because I'm like, you Yeah, so you told me things. You told me these and then we use go like, if nothing happens, and then you are mad with me, because I don't want it to to you for a year because I am processing how I feel. Wow. That's fantastic. So I think that all of that that happened in the same month that I just came out to myself when I came home to other people because I needed to say because I was made Yeah.

Olivia N 43:26

So what was that? Like? How old? Were you again when you were coming out to the

43:30

19? Yeah, that was my first relationship with her. That was That's great. So

Olivia N 43:37

can you how did your mom respond to this?

43:42

If it were combination of I ain't wondering. And I'm super, because she's the weirdest person in that in the sense that she can be super like we're ally or queer herself. And then she can be super homophobic. And that's something that to me boggles my mind. Like how, because she was like, Oh, my God, I know, it doesn't change anything and the man, but something happening, and he was like,

she was like, No, would you like guys, so? Like, we're in the consequence of that. I thought, like, for the next two years that I was bisexual, even if that wasn't the case, because I knew that I was, like, really scared to say that word because my relationship with it had changed a lot. So it was like, yeah, maybe I'm a lesbian. She was like, No, this makes sense to because for her, if I was like sensual, it would be easier to just catch everything because if I don't have a girlfriend, that's okay. Fine. So, he's like, that's me, but at the same time, she like tries to like, how to say it. In a way when I with people with older people, and they are like, yeah, because like it's really common in Dominican spaces. With older people. We mean like, yeah, we can do you know, when you just get marry and you get a house nice and you get kids, I'm gonna do this or things that I'll just spotted later that I about that even if we're not console to you because of supranormal like, there are a lot of people that I know that half my age that have kids in or marry. So it's like really normal. And they're like yeah, so you know when you do that, and one of the things that my mom has always do even now it's like when they say that she looks in the space I like I'm like, we want to say anything because it's worked for me. She just gonna say yeah, because when they had a harassment and you're like why? So it's really weird how she reacted to that because it's like she says that she should personally but at the same time, she's after like negating a lot of the things that happen and even now that I'm with someone that using key they pronouns she's becoming a fucking hard time with that. And even with myself with my burnin so it's like now so it's like I love you, but in my way so I can miss the under you, I can then tell you all the things, but I love you. So with everything is just like that. And she has passed for my team to right now. 2014 has been trying to process in like you have five years through booking five years. Like I said that I do this moment in my life, it would be better like tomorrow with the with the lesson stuff. Maybe they don't mind anything. She's like, now, this is too much for me. I know my cool. Please come together with mental health in that sense.

Olivia N 46:35

So when you were around when you were growing up later, like in the Dr. And stuff like towards the end, before you moved? Did you have queer people around you? And can you talk about the sense of queer knowing? Like you guys just all? Yeah.

46:51

So yeah, I have queer people around me in the church, because I think it was just really funny. Because one of my restaurants like he's someone that I know, for a long time. He's really someone, even if we pass like, what, six months, one year, we are talking because you saw a person that really just forget. So you're it's like, okay, you're on like that. Like he's the kind of person when I really get the mentoring. And I know that when I first met him, I think that he's one two years older than me. When I first met him, he was my brother, my little brother, because they're friends. And we met in the church. And it was really interesting, because it was like, I know that he's gay. And he's the kind of gay guys like, it's really a burning sensation. Because I'm well, and it was like, Yeah, I knew, like everyone knew. I never said anything, because I was like, I don't want to go any problem here. And you know, you can be really like, awful for him if I scan it. So I just write cool. And I remember also another girl, two girls are really impacted me because one of them was bisexual pansexual I really don't know how they identify right now. And her best friend is a lesbian. I mean, I was like, in a moment, like the best friend that is a lesbian. She, like just stopped going to church. And the other girl was like, yeah, like, they don't want to go here because they think that they would be like, we did that stuff. And then she told me like,

yeah, that person is like, because you saw that. And you didn't tell me? Oh, but I was like, Yeah, you know, I was in my head like, yeah, this person. Like, that's everything for me. So I have like three, four people. I have more people in their church, breezy, burly. And also, I think in my friend group, it's probably I think that there are a group we believe in, they haven't gone well yet. Because to me, like, it's like right now I say we're gonna like, please. I know that we are queer. So yeah, I have that. I think that something was really funny about the queer people is when I confirmed that the first time when I was in, when I went into my first ride in my home country, and it was like, I was just passing by. And I encounter also I encounter our people in my college in my art college. It was the thing I really like, allow me to just come out to myself, my encounters with me because I just so so many queer people are testing a lot of pregnant sexual people, like men and women just being like, Yeah, I'm not sexual. I have this stuff in my head. This boyfriend ain't happy with that. And they were just being answered. And then that really, really helped me. So that was why one year after being in college, I will say yeah, I want to thank you very much. So it was really easy, just for that. But I know that ain't right. What I was saying is like, I was in pride, I was just saying, I encounter someone from my own university for my college. Um, I was just there. I remember that I bought someone it was like, oh, this person reminds me this person In particular, and when I looked at that I was like, oh my Yeah, it's still so it was really fun because I encounter someone for the shirts specifically, that I always knew that they were gay. And if they really, he was gay was the person that I was talking about before. And it was like, it was like, super, like, we're, we're cool. And like, I was happy for him, because we were like, way to doing here like to each other. And it was kind of fun. Because, for me, anybody's expected anything. They were all like, oh my god, darn last year. Oh, my goodness. I feel like it was like camera visible. But for the image that I created before, it was kinda like, difficult to see through that. So I understand that some sense. But yeah, like, I had that. And it's kind of fun to me, like knowing now all the people that are queer, because I'm like, so do like, it's really fun to me just go and see all the different facets of people that were around me. And I remember just altogether, like at CSUN and be like, we're all just we're here trying to survive. And be so yeah. So

Olivia N 51:09

can you talk a little bit about how clothing jewelry like? tattoos, piercings, any body mods or other forms of gender expression have assisted with affirming your identities or your lesbianism in any way?

51:27

Yeah. I think that it was first my lesbians and right now it's more my minor minority where I think that they go hand in hand for me. Because for me, like my lesbian is, it cannot be separated for how I see myself. Like, to me in general, like lesbians are not like women in the traditional sense. So it's a Yeah, we are just going hand in hand. But yeah, like I begin to the person when I was my thing, also. So I began to explore with that I have like, almost like a plan. I think right now, I begin to that the US doing that is also one year ago, that's something that I'm doing slowly with the holy really like to blind those kinds of stuff, we don't want multiplications I really like to plan them, media or something that really helps me, because we might not use and also my hair, how I just bleach, bleach, and how I got it. And I like to experiment with a lot of fun colors. And colors are really vibrant. Like, really, I burn. I like to do that. And he's somebody that really allows me to just be in a sense, that is my own terms. And he's like, even if people just are going to perceive me as a woman later on, I don't care that much about it. Like most of the day, it's because there are days I'm like, like, please stop. And you're just like, we are going

to continue. That's okay. But like, yeah, it really helps me because I use it spring my waveform and like shape and all of that. And I just use whatever I want. If I see something, I don't care what century it is, as long as he just meets me, I'm fine. I like okay, we're going to take those tubes, we're going to take those skirts, or that jacket, all of that. And to me, it's really fun because it has opened a lot of possibilities. Because before I was using the women's section, right now I just explored the or like, all this or I just go away everything. The only part that I cannot go to is like the kids the kids bar because he doesn't fit me. But if not, I would go to Yeah, I didn't get to like my boyfriend. He goes like in the kids part because it's really tiny. So that makes sense. My head, you know what, for me, it's really difficult. So I just have the joy right now that I can see everything in the store. And I can see and try the things that go with my life. If that goes well, right, right, I don't care, I just going to make it every fits me, I'm going to take it home and I'm going to be happy. So my mic wasn't smooth, they're like something that is just like a mix of different stuff. And really different moods because I have clothing that can be really like the style and color for really like soft. And I have also another spirit that is very hard to that. That to me, I've divided like that in my head that is just like color desaturated and like a little more dark. Like can be black. Why? Blue that is like kind of green or like covered yellow, that kind of stuff. And to me is like really fun because I just have different things that I can lean on. Or these I can be more neutral but I just have fun with it. And it really has helped me because even if people perceive me a certain way, I am just being like that they mean I'm being something that it's at 16 That's everything because in my in house in my gender it's more like in an agenda or Sans font just an entity accessing in the in the world. I consider myself like something that when I visualize it, someone asked me it's like it just Like the Miss To me that's my time don't miss it's just there it's this thing Embry you're gonna see it you can perceive it sometimes a lot of times you don't and that's okay so yeah it's me Allah like how also Hi Can we proceed because I think something that really fun for me is that sometimes in like already Scott in winter in winter a lot of the times even if I fostered a long skirt and I have like boots and then I have led something that it's really like longing oversize there are been there have been times where people have called me like I heard a bit concerning how do you say that? Miss Sue? I forget how do you say that? Mr. They have totally missed it. Yeah, I mean certainly we go for like Wow, it really depends on the first thing and we're just depends on how they want to perceive you. Even if I have long hair or you have pa braids or anything like that. There are times that they have come to me so it just gives me a lot of gender for so I love experimenting with my clothes a lot because I have outfits that I do for us and we write to me sir I like Yes. You read that you hear my voice la Yes. Yeah, mister. I love that. Like to me that's beautiful. And he's like something that can change a lot and how people perceive me how would you explore the world? It really depends. So what about

Olivia N 56:35

things like art? Like how have like art TV shows, like you know about like, like anime and manga has helped you with like your lesbianism in some ways. Like I see that webcomic behind you. That gay Catholic webcomics.

56:54

wacko and I'm also real loud. That's, that's true. I took it off on me out loud because it is the thing that I when I first realized it was the first thing that I was like, going through. I remember when I was 16. My close group of friends and my best friend they were all they are triggers. And they were all into AI. And to me that was kind of disturbing. Because I was like repressing that part. I was like, No, it wasn't

learning the weird side of the hour. You're learning the veal side because I appreciate veal in you know, in the sense that it can be really beautiful. Now, it's weird to me. And I'm like no. Like that franchising stuff is not for me. I'm pretty sure you in general, it's not for me. So I'm like, No, thank you. But I need to remember that not that doesn't really talk about it in how they were in the like, in the more like healthy side. It was like for me weird because I was like trying to read at that. And just lately mothering for all people was like, huh, but I remember when I then after I came out the first things I began to consume were BL coin now something that I consume a lot is BL well also JL if I can get my hands on something that is squared, I don't get like I'm like, I'm going to read you and that's gonna be okay. And right now, it's really fun because I have like a sensor for that. Like, I think I'm gonna do something that thing squared. So that's perfect. So are you something I really helps hold me also, I assume illustration and something in something that really helps me to process because right now I know that I'm doing a project that is Dominican queerness and I'm just processing a lot of the stuff that I went through and how I see myself and how we are these are ways that I can express my queerness that I'm not conforming to why queer is you know, how to be innocence I can be just be and be like here in France or USA can be like zero like something that is no like enough queer but in my home it is. And to me that's really interesting because the one thing that really fascinated me and you say the group coding or things anything specifically around the world, like that's, that's something that I got paid to me that's fascinating, so many ways because like music videos, I know cable too. I keep it helped me process so much. That's incredible how much it made me results because I know that for a long time. I will regret that if BTS is one of my primary gifts for our NumPy I haven't been I will say yeah, I had a bias and this is the proof that I like man. I really liked the jacket. Well it's when you ask me my bias. I took the fucking most androgynous person they must person that is definitely missing that working group. I just thought them I was like, doing me were the same. Like, I don't know do know the member deeming of videos like that man. That like that. Men that mean is just mean that isn't sifting. They weren't. I wasn't. Yeah, that's me. And to me, it's really funny because I wasn't Yeah, I like men. So because I have a bias and use this person, like, yes. really suspicious. So to me, it was really funny how I just took a lot of this stuff. And I was like trying to like, copy some behaviors, I seen something other girls. And you're just aware that when I see those stuff, or after a long time, I'm just like, Yeah, I was just being being clear as well. And processing all of that. Because to me, like art is something that really helps me just see myself in. And something that is really important, because I know that a lot of the shows that are the most important for me are like animated shows, which is fascinating how a lot of like, we're roaming, and just seeing animated shows, not in real life shows, which is weird, in fact, around the same time, last year, for example, that was a show that when I saw that I just so hard, I just cry so far, because I was like that for not the first time. But it was a show that really impacted me because I think that yeah, for the first time, I was like seeing two women kissing and just loving each other in screen. And just being there and all the confidence around that in some way it really impacted. So it was really important. So like, I really has do a lot of media and all of that stuff in just allowing me and helping me to assert myself. Because those are the first places I just go to consume entertain those ideas. Like also, I discovered recently that I'm polyamorous and I was like, and all of this stuff was also through our through people that I know like, it was like talking about it, or people that was just putting the conversation on about that topic and was like, okay, so also been on my net, it was like the same way I just first started there. And they are just investigated by your supervisor, my brain. I was like, oh, no, so that's me. So I really helped me out a lot like covering up for example, I do mention it. To me, it's funny, because I know that I process a lot of my drama in an unconscious way. Just Raven bug, like just a

pleasure seeing like, these Catholic people that are like, priests, and don't really flurry like that's trying to strike. Yes, exactly. And then my prayer to like, I lose stuff that even if we're in a subtle way, to me, it's important because it's like, um, it's funny how I, I see those stuff, like how I can navigate them. And also the dinner I was saying before, like, the deal, seeing how everyone, each call during each person gets breast weirdness is really fascinating. Because it's not the same. In all the places, it's still fascinating, like, in some places is samsara. And not so quiet, and juicy snare in their prisons, I have to be super loud. So it's just that like, art is like a really big part of how I affirm myself on how we interact with brands. And even right now you'll see a lot of stuff that even if there was a lot of stuff that I know, I know how important they are just for being in the screen. And just for the thought of that I just cry because I'm like, wow, like, this is helping me a lot in this moment. I am I didn't have some younger kids that are going to be like, Oh my god, like that's me to realize that exactly what it does for that. So yes. So

Olivia N 1:03:42

we're going to move into like the community questions now. So how do you how does race and ethnicity inform your interactions with lesbian community? And do you have thoughts about how race impacts your gender identity?

1:03:57

Yeah, I think that yeah. I ended up in the, in a different way from my white peers. Because to me, I think that I have to check a lot of things before being friends with a lot of the community. And also I have seen that for example here there are some groups that too, like for me, I believe they are like kind of less than bothered because they just include a definition very specifically and very, like, narrow of how it is to realize man, that it just being a woman that is cisgender or trans that has to identify as a woman that loves a woman I'm like, No, like I'm sorry me but that's really why for me how you describe that? So I have really a lot of trouble like I don't think are on the left and community here in France. I don't do that. Because I don't feel safe to do it. I really don't know like in person other lesbians. I know other queer people would not lesbians. I mean, unless that's your hope color like no, nothing you me Oh boy. So I think that really impacts in the sense that I don't have the same experiences. I know that when I tell my friends, my wife, friends, that all my story and all my experiences, like comedy and culture and how that impacts my queerness, they don't understand a lot of the time. They're like, really, and like that happens on your cycle, we have the same age, like the happen when you were the same age as me. And it's really isolated, and a lot of the times because they don't understand you. And even if they want, they cannot, because they don't have the same experience, like whereas here in France, where it sounds, it's like, so normalized, is just so wide. I said that. And to me, worse, it was really like mind blowing, because I was like, wow, oh, my god, like these people do its thing in my hunger thing happen. And it's like something that makes me sad. And then sometimes allotted clients is like, I tried to pay them for me and like, just like when appropriate, because it's we're, and at the same time, it doesn't like give me the hope, or the light and desire to roll further and go to try and find community here. Because I think that I will be misunderstood that a lot of the times I will try to like, understand how I feel on my side. Like with younger, I know that my ethnicity, like in my race, in fact, a lot of it. Because how I consider myself like, for example, I know that I'm a person of color, and that I'm non binary person. But I know really well that in my case, they will never be simply because they can only perceive me through the lens of black woman or black man is the only lens of a male, and how they perceive me. So they

just go depending on how they are receiving my expression. And it's really like incriminating all good things, because it's really limiting. And it's like, here, I just can be one of two types. I cannot be more than that. It just really infuriated to me, because that's something that I have tried to explain to some of my friends. And they just get mad because they think that I'm trying to evaluate the identity. And you're like, No, right? It's not that the thing is that you that you are like, You are afforded the camaraderie that you can be perceived as a person. Because you are why me, I have to proceed to allowance of binaries the woman or men, because I'm like, just for that. And the thing is, for a lot of people, they're like, No, you're not black men than that. And I'm like, Yeah, but the thing is, like they, if they don't know, they are going to ask me, they are going to try to position me in some of the themes know how to treat me to be like, okay, so what is their Mr and your grace? Okay, we're going to ask you to then treat me in a way that they consider I said double to that population. And that's why a lot of times, I just don't interact with people that are in the community as specifically white lesbians, because I know that I have received that comment from other people that I know that we're why we're is that I love them. I just finished this. And that's something that I don't want to I don't want to leave with why people criticizing me like I had a friend like that, in the first year I was here. And it will sound really traumatizing experience. Like I didn't like a person and steal like I see her and I just want to run. So that's something that I don't want to repeat myself. I don't want to ruin my relationship. And that's something that I don't appreciate. And the thing is with that, I know that if I tried to tell her or try to tell other people that I have problems lie related to that they will they will be like No, that's not true. Like you're exaggerating, or I'm just sure that I will surely start anyway. Yes. If it's run Risa, like this kind of stuff like accusation of your racism, that's something that you take lightly. We all know that everyone a quitter, we know that so no thinking that lightly, and be like, Oh, my God is because I want to do her gratitude. No, it's because you're doing something that is hurting me that has been that has been passing like repeatedly for a long time. And now I'm talking to you. So doesn't mean that I don't have the energy to deal with in the lesbian community here. I like I'm fine. I prefer to be just with my friends or to with the people that I know for the mingara ballot. I just tried to like have my community very small way. I prefer not so many times more because I haven't had the energy to leave those kinds of people. Like it's not like I'm fine. So yeah. So

Olivia N 1:09:40

how does being a sexual and Demi romantic interact with your lesbianism? And how does it affect how you shape your lesbian near your queer community?

1:09:51

Well, are you really mean but like, You're ugly, because I know that when I was 19 was like the thing that happened We've my ex best friend. I mean, we've my answer we can say, and then i Boss, I like no way. But I until I have feelings for another person like you they pass away for years. So I really take my time with that. I like to also like finding a person that is okay with me being ace and like, taking things on my time and like taking things are slower pace and be like, Yeah, I don't feel comfortable with this, or I don't want to do this. And they are okay with that. It's really, because I think about a lot of the things not not just in the lesson community, but in the group community in general is like we left. Like, we just marginalize a lot of people that are in the ACE and the romantic community. Because it's like, no, you're not queer, because we don't have like sexual or romantic desire. And you're like, kind of stupid for me in that sense. And the thing is that I can be the last thing I gotta go screenings to, like, make us examine romanticism against sexuality, but it can be different and for anyone, and so I don't

know, like, I know that invites a lot. A in really depends on how I feel with people. Like there are people I will, I won't have like feelings like they are they when I met someone, like I know, I remember when it happened. It was really weird. I was like, oh, okay, I'm interested in this person. But it was make no room and it was like, I want to know you even are suffering or something. I just want to know you. But in general, it just doesn't help me. Like there are very, very, very few people in this world that are like, Yeah, I want to know, you're wanting to have something with you, I can count them with my hands. Like that also happen in general. So I think that making it really difficult because when I go well, I just go to a bird or something. It's not like my objective is no like to make out with someone. Like a like a lot of the icy Lassman socialize in like in social media is like they are making now with another girl, they are trying to do something that is critical to me, that's nothing work. For me, I prefer to have a conversation and just be there with a person and after a moment, I will be like, Okay, are you can happen. Like I said, it's really weird. Like, he doesn't happen all the time. So I think that it can, it can be kind of isolating, because not a lot of the a lot of people understand that. And our people also complain to a like asexuality in our Monday season. So that makes it even harder. And a lot of the times when you tell them like yeah, I don't want this part of the relationship. They don't understand. And I know there are, there are lesbians are trying to just force that. And you're like, I don't I don't owe you that. But it's kind of complicated to explain. But I think for the same lack of like information and history and all of those stuff. Like I think that that really complicates how we navigate those identities in their lesbian community and all the things that go with lesbianism, like how we navigate that, I think that they can be complicated, because they'll have a lot of us don't have the knowledge. So it's like, tricky. So

Olivia N 1:13:10

can you talk about how disability informs your interactions with lesbian community?

1:13:17

Yeah. I think it really like be like, kind of stopping from forming a relationship with our people. I love people, if they see that you are neurodivergent or you have depression and stuff like that, like I mentioned before, they are just not willing to have no relationship with you. They're just like, No, I'm fine. I know that. At first when I was like talking to my boyfriend now. Like, it was really weird. It was really like we were having a lot of communication issues, just because the Hubbard because he's really nervous. I remember specifically, he is so distinct. And he's like, Yeah, like that. For him. I wasn't understanding. And I know that that make a lot of features for me. And for him. And I know that if before me like, I'm something someone that is neurodivergent do I get very money for showing it to people, but it's just like, yeah, they are trying to understand or they don't try to accommodate you, or they don't try to like, make an effort to be like, okay, we can make our veal to be comfortable, both of us. So I think that is a thing that when civility is kind of complicated, because a lot of people are willing to like doing an effort in doing a deal with you and trying to find a middle ground, to strive to be like comfortable with both of you. They just want to be comfortable themselves. So that makes it really harder. And a lot of the times I feel like also, boundaries are not respected. They're just right to be graphs. And that's something that for me is really important. So it's like, yeah, it can be really like about sensation in that sense. And I think The in really limits how you experience the community because like I said, a lot of people are really not willing to just go there. They're just like, peace and love. We just sit back. And that's everything.

Olivia N 1:15:14

So can you talk? So I understand that you don't, you're not really pursuing any in person, lesbian community and friends for a variety of valid reason. So can you talk about your online lesbian communities a bit and how you find them and how you engage with them?

1:15:39

Yeah, I know that a lot of the Alliance implementer is just like following people that I just see, like two RAS that I see on Instagram, because where they are, where I'm like, oh, cool, um, the people that are constantly saying something asked me, they can be blended that are greater, or people that follow. So some groups asked me also, so it's just like, innocent. I know that for now, I just compound myself with, with blessing communities, specifically, to just like, having interactions normally, that way. I know that I have interaction single different way with my friends are one such or, or that I write virtual, and all that it still is different. Because it's not like this thing. It's really adult. But also, even if it's just one person with my boyfriend, I do a lot that we are just like, yes, where this year, thank you very much. And that's everything. So I have like that. I had some friends that I met to. I'm in Santo Domingo. And I happen like, from from time to time I talk to them. And I don't know, I just had the like the habit to to use, I'm having like a lot of conference. So I just do it with that. And try to like just have my interactions with online spaces. And I try my my best. And maybe that will happen in in some time. So maybe not something that I'm open to. But for the moment, I haven't found like someone that I can be like really good friends that we have or something like we are both lesbians. I prefer my boyfriend that mean complicated. A lot of the people that I use, we have, we have a really good garage, and I don't know one of them is sponsored show any sort of ice, and the only word it just always. So it's like, you know? Maybe nothing can change number one, right now. It's just I just go from the decimals. That's everything.

Olivia N 1:17:41

So can you talk about lesbian community queer community, in, in the DAR and in France? And what are the similarities and differences? And what are you noticing in both communities?

1:17:52

Yeah. So let me know, it's really everything is just like seminars, sorry, similarities. We have like a team that we know that we are we just stuck together, we are just efficiently done. And we'd like yeah, we are great. Thank you very much. But for the differences, I think that's something that really happens is like, how the community is managed here is really different from the art because like, we don't have the team in France lately, there are a lot of people that are getting murdered parents, like in Dr. Delta norm. And if you have my case, and your burns, I just turned to you. And then and they still keep you around, you're lucky here, this is the bare minimum. So it's really fun, like the standards and the relationships you have with girlfriends, and they're in how they react, or how they behave with their families. Like the things that are expected thing like that. Um, and also like, I feel like the approach and the intimacy that we think have with one another, it's really different. Because in VR, when you know that your career and there are so many things, I do know that you just get it because culturally, references or stuff like that, to me like something that I value even more than before. And it's really different here, because we have the cultural barrier. We have seen that a lot of times they don't try it, or they either just don't understand me. Yeah, they don't try to understand me and they don't try to

understand why they think like that, or why they have this garment, or this way of behaving. They just don't try. So it's really like kind of hard, at least for me. As someone that is a foreigner or a person of color you have all those identities are just interested, how they interact with me. It's really different. how that goes. And like in the art, it's just easier. Like I just I just like talk to someone and I couldn't do very easily. Like I know that the last time I went I talked to a lot of cool people. Now the meaning and it was really cool because in a moment like we will click we're just having a lot of things like oh my god, we are knowing each other also in the art world. You're friendly. So making friends is really easy. It's really, really easy. It's not like you're like people or have the, like, go through all team that they do my friends, they, a lot of the time, they just stay with the same person for a long period of time. Like, I know people that know each other from 15 years, and they have my age. So it's like, they are not open to meeting people. In the ER, it's different because, like, people laugh in general to me when people and to like, be cool with them and to be like, like one with all those people with a person in general. So I think that really affects how the communities interact. Because a lot of the time, like the queer community here, or the queer communities, or you can have locally, they are used to being like, super close. And you can enter in them if you know someone that is in like a robbery, like I have with my group of friends. But in the history of a country, like you're just driving, you know, one person and that person is going to present you another person and that person is going to another person. And when you see a uniform a lot, a whole community, or people are interconnected, because also it's a little community. And basically, we all know, like if I know someone that person is going to know and other people, that probably I know, too. And it's like that. And it's just like the dynamic worries a lot. I think that for us in recent, like we have that thing that we have to work with each other. And I'm not saying that they are not like fairings, or they're weird things to happen in the art. Of course, they happen. But at least in a general sense, like people try to like, be open at the same time to try to really protect, protect each other. And to be close. And to be like because by the country, they don't the finals, they don't give a fuck and they are just trying to discriminate. Yeah, people are just in that sense, like really more united than here. Because I think that's something that I noticed when I arrived here is like, try for a lot of people is no one thing that is like, wow, for me, pride is something that I really like to start the timer every year to celebrate it to like, just revise my year and to be like, Oh my god, like I really, I really arrived, Mark. And I just look back and see all the things that have changed her last year. And from when I first came around, and older brothers I made that I have made for myself. Anything that here, it's really taking for granted. Like I know people that really have told me like, don't recruit those that have radar because it's like, like any other holiday or like you know, definitely for example, in the yard, I Brian is huge. A lot of the people that are gonna go to Brian is because they are not out and they can be endangered. That's understandable. And they're like, they're part of the community. And it's like, oh my God, you're not queer, like that parties, of course. But a lot of the people they are just proud to be out there and truly being super loud and trying to just have some team that can defend us because right now like the situation is like they want to legalize discrimination. So it's kind of hard in that sense. But you're is like the troll obviously, because it's like so taking for granted that people are allowed to grind they are just small, like shelter beds. And to me that's something that I think that is a big difference in France being Korea is not like a bit as a bit of a deal of it is VR. So in that sense, like a lot of the things are queer are made, like they are not the norm in VR, they are so much more appreciated. And like a lot of we have a lot of more stuff in our in the in that sun still because we'll have a lot of publication work. We're a little publication in general. So when you have something that i squared, like even more

rare, and you just like do you just go there and you clean together? Oh, that's probably the reason also I think that's the biggest difference between the two communities.

Olivia N 1:24:01

So what does Why do you think they're not that many lesbian spaces where where you are in the DR.

1:24:13

Well, I think one of the things is that a lot of the times and I know it's insecurity that happens in VR and also here is like the gay community that's most of the place the day most of the space and playing the are the only bars that I have been through are gay bars going so that's good for me because I'm just invisible there and I like pink. Like that's I have information thank you. But I know that for example in Dr. Seesaw one, that same bar, but he just won in all the countries just one. And he knew friends. I know there are some other things like I don't have a lot of lessons. I don't have basically any lesson friends here. I don't feel like I can go there because otherwise My friends are printing a spirit. And it's normal because they are another, like another layer and they are in another space being queer. So it's like, Oh, yeah. So I think that it really influenced the theme that a lot of the spaces in general or the young, queer in general are inclusive. Also, there are a lot of people want to be part of the community, they just want to be like that. But also, like a lot of the spaces are just taken by gay men in general. So it's like, you have all the space taken up. And also, like lesbians in general, we are just invisible are people something that is made for a man to enjoy? I think that that influences a lot. And I think it's like kind of harder to have something that is just less like, as a public space than it is to be gay, because I feel that a lot of these are happening is something I noticed a lot is that a lot of straight women, especially quickly, they try to support and quotation marks, like gaming, and they're just, they're just fetishizing like, they're not right, they just finish it. And then so you have that kind of poor support, post support of a lot of straight people. And it's like, doesn't happen. An example that I have for life is like, I just demand that like, last week when I went to my local manga store I went to a monster that they really they really have a good selection of like BL and GM and stuff like that. And it's because their shelf one line of what they call God, and it has like the last few flights and they're really good stuff, the the the Euphrates me in that they have citrus, girl your stuff to get it and I like dusting. Yeah, that's my place to like disgusting. Like to me to put sacred and put like, effort sampler balloon into you in the same category does that also cry, cry, doesn't mean that cannot be done. But at the same time, when you go back that's in like the second level. A minute that they're like for, like almost 10 levels in total. Like literally the first two are something that is general The second is dually ayob. Otherwise, I use you can find out where you can find VL you can find out about Iris stuff that I found disturbing, super wholesome. Yes. But the thing is like the difference, like let's be friends and you smell like they don't see it like mangoes, there are like, for example, Jonesy yell, they it says where these are expressing really that, like, it's at sure, like the difference in something. The people that were there in the store told me it was like the difference of like noise. The book community is for that. But some of the VR community in France is much louder than the GL community. So that I think that that reflects on how also the lesson spaces were created. Because like the same, like we are so much like, much calmer in the gay community. So that's why a lot of the times like they are the forefront of the community, like your community in general. People think that if we help something gay that yeah, like, we are, like, totally fair. I guess I know, we have online analysts that we represent that that need to be put out there. So I think that really influenced like that example, in general how the news works. So

Olivia N 1:28:33

what does identifying as a lesbian mean to you?

1:28:37

QUESTION Can we make up us? Yes.

Olivia N 1:28:43

So what does identifying as a lesbian mean to you?

1:28:47

To me, to put it simply isn't liberation in some way. Because when I when I first identify as a lesbian, I was like, wow, I have so much stuff to store display, to just be to define, and I know something that told me my the person that I kind of, like, first data was like, I needed to define for a lot of the things in life in general, just like define what it meant to me, like what it meant to me to laugh what it meant to me to have relationship and to have a job or to have like a family, a lot of stuff. And it wasn't that was really meaningful. Because lesbianism is the same thing. I just defined for myself what it means to be a lesbian, what it means to live we are relationship with another person that is not a man. Because that's how I really defined lesbianism for me so one that is not a man that is in front of our men. How I can just like be in that place if I don't have to be like a dash to the of the rules of I have to do this for men. What does it mean to me? And it's just like really liberating because I didn't used to be and it's not something that is defined by my partner. It's just something that is defined by myself, and yeah, like a lot of the things that when I interact with people, they can help me a lot to discover new things. But in general, just by myself, I discovered things and how I define them. And what it means to me. Unless being you and I'm not a woman, and to be in a relationship with someone else that has to do with that. I think that lesbian is a word that is just so broad and beautiful, because you you can, you can just like access there, that's my personal thing in life, this thing I'm being I really love it. It's really liberating in that sense. I think for a lot of people, even they have different definitions like, is like going missing, I feel like we just can decide what we want to do. Or in like, in the sense of, I seen that someone describe me for like, with gender like versus people is like you are in a cage. And you're in when you're non binary, you recognize that you are in a cage when you use one, two, like journalists or you are in a cage. And the difference is like, like you acknowledge that you can use access in that space in a different way. I think that for me, the thing with lesbians and lesbianism is the same thing. Because when you know that you are in a space in Oregon limitations in whether these are just against in that go in your favor. You just go with that. And it's more easier to navigate stuff in general. I don't know like, it's just like that for me.

Olivia N 1:31:39

So what does what lesbian spaces are communities do you wish existed?

1:31:50

I think it could be really cool. If lesbian spaces like for minor people could be like things are gonna have alcohol, and or drugs, or things that are related to music, like a more important sample, like good gloves, where people that are like that, or like gamers, oh my God, because gamers don't really talk

about I like to, to like, play games a lot. For me, it's frustrating. It's like, I'm not going to ever. I don't consider myself a gamer, because technically, that has a really strict definition. But I think that could be super amazing. Like just interacting with other levels in the gaming community. Like something that when I find characterize allies during a game, like Oh, my God, that could be super amazing. could play together or recommend games to each other. Something that I'd use a little more shall I be in the in the boarding guy community that I know, in a to signify another, it can be like cool that you just have less than spaces, a lot of the places that we just go naturally, I think we really amazing. So that really happens. And to me that's really fun is like enabled spaces. Like there, there are people that are just bias as lesbians gravitate to. So I think that that's something that can be like, you know, highlighted. Like, in my world, for example, a lot of lesbians that you have the same bias, which is so funny to me. Yeah. So Nisa is that veteran like Yeah, I know. And to realize that that kind of stuff can be like, more rough like that's like an inner joke in the corporate space. I think that it's it's like that, for me, I'm sick, over it overdue that we just find out wow, like it'd be super fun to brace apparently, something that is dedicated to me, I think is more important to minors in a lot of countries. Because like that, it can be like detached from the day, it has to be sensual. It has to be like for adults. And it can be a lot more friendly in the sense like it can be like more approachable because I know that it is I have discovered that as someone that is like, ace, it has been so much easier to identify and define myself with that. Because another thing like Yeah, I know a lot of people are like, yeah, they have to sell the Shire for a woman like that's totally fine. The thing is, like myself, I don't have that immediately. I can have that with time. And so and with someone that I really think Gato so if you're talking about indices of in all the facets of business, we meet them, you know, the first time before aromantic people are asexual people are always people, like you talk in that sense, it can be so much easier. How do you identify with that also spaces where you can like have people that are not considered women, how we navigate less me some differently and how we feel about that. It could be good like we only spaces, also physical spaces, because I feel like when you have community in some way, shape or form, even if it's like on the instance, it does a really good job of healing At least for me, it does that. Like, it really does a lot of healing. And I feel like less anger less isolated. So like, yeah, like all the stuff that could be good right now. So, what does

Olivia N 1:35:14

lesbian Joy mean to you? When are you happiest as a lesbian?

1:35:18

Wow, I use everyone. They are insisting, like, when I'm with my boyfriend and just being like gas, right? That's something that makes me so happy. Like, there are a lot of the times that we just stuck. Like we call each other like Dora, do you have a big guy is gay. And I love that, because it's just about recognizing that it's super clear than just expressing that, that I'm currently just like simple non personal, Brian, another person that is not like that, to me is fantastic. I love that. That's something that just makes me so happy because it's something that I wasn't allowed before to do it right now, I just enjoyed so much. Like, the farther we say into one other person was saying that no one person is really attractive. Oh my god, like, that's the reason well, doesn't mean that really gives me a lot of joy. Also, when I can recognize another lesbian in the wild, I like them. Like, I know that you're singing me and I see you. And that it's really easy. Because in general, we are like, a little minority. So when you find another one, it's like you find I really like rare anymore. Like a mythical animal. It feels like that. A lot of

people that are suffering people they are part of they are my central. So it's like, okay, well, I love it. That's I want to meet more or less. So where I know what I like, Oh my god. That's so that's something that gives me a lot of joy. And just yeah, just reading with women and knowing in general is just like, yeah, also, whenever we remember that even have to deal with my dad when we were there, but that doesn't have to deal with me in my Lamy race. In that in my life. I will have to, like in my personal circle, while the joy that I have, like oh my goodness, that's one of the most beautiful things for me, so yeah, like, I don't know if I have an allergy maybe. But in general, that's what I just do. I just same thing for women. A no man. I in this mean, like, wow, I am so gay with this. I don't know, that's gonna be like a really supersizing. For me, that's something like, like I said before, like I didn't have a bad morning, or something that I'm just compensatory right now, just being like. Just like we've had the money question.

Olivia N 1:37:47

Is there anything else you want to talk about before we end?

1:37:54

I don't know. I'm thinking, oh, yeah, maybe I didn't have such a go. Because I really like to talk about that, when I was sitting with the group coding, like something that I find really fascinating is like the recording specifically in cable that I should say, because that's something like, I have found a lot of similarities with the art in Korea, for wanting seek room life from afar. And you think that sounds like they are really close society. And they are just like, having a lot of the things like we can send some things, but we won't talk about it, we will, like talk about it. So like, we're just sitting there, like, like, the, like, we don't talk about money in the sense they are like, we're fine. But I find it really interesting because how this squareness and how like in Jamaican music, they express queerness so differently in Dominican music, Christmas, I love the way when it's like your music, you know, whether it's really in your face in real life go out there. Like you cannot base it in a lot of dedicated spaces is more like you know, is there just you know, really that the granola is there and you're like, hey this thing but it can be so much like subtle and even the aggressive stuff is like super subtle is like really saw and just out there compared to like the medical music in that sense. And to me that's really fascinating to see the difference like if I compared to France also made the recording is like another level because like here is so like a normal analog that like a lot of the times we don't talk about different stuff. And it's like it just in general just like recording and cable but in general like To me that's really something fascinating. Like and also Lester it's hard to test because I know that lately I'm not selling with a group of people. That's just how they go queerness to me I like Mm hmm. And it's something that really gets me a lot of joy. Because I like, oh, it's interesting how they explore it, and they love the ways that you can know that something's weird, just by looking at it, or the things that are repeating in that. Yeah. And I think that in a lot of the senses, like for someone to make a music and that that is repeated, like if we go to our Facebook our famous like, finger that is the cliché I don't know if you know her. Like why now the Keisha like, she's someone that Jesus was bisexual, like, she's just out there living her best life, even she that just needs a lot of time, like, Okay, you're like, No, but a lot of times, she was things that they are really just out there, they are really just in your face. And if I compare that to be overband same, it's like music. It's really like queer and yourself where I compare that to the other group. They are like just a lot of mazzaro Like, they will go on talking always only one off and they return to that there are theories that was like disavow queer discovery in a lot of like contests and stuff. And usually when I compare those two things to me, because the beauty of the difference, the difference how each one is

referred, and also the beauty of how it is perceived that how can I absorb it? Because I think it sounds like everyone has every one of them have their place in the market of how they are because addition for example, it's really needed that she's really bowling out there because like, in the yard love the stuff darn related to queerness I'm gonna talk about I think that is really important that she's just like, yeah, do you have like that? I like ours. No, okay, we continue. Like girls and boys. We continue with that. They are really essential. I love that for her. Again, this entire like, like, I don't know, just that quick Coronavirus, mazzaro that is just more like, you have you see the video and then you see the lyrics and you're like, oh, okay, we're talking about another person that is of the same year that we can be anyone in gender. So in general, so yeah, like you said. Thank you very much to you.