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SPEAKERS

Olivia

Olivia 00:01

Hello, today is April 16 2023. I'm Olivia Newsome interviewing Saoirse and Brooklyn in my apartment on my couch. Do have permission to record this interview. Yes you do. Do you know you can stop recording at any time? Yes, I do. Can you say your name, age and pronounce? My name is Sasha. My age is 21 years and I use she they pronouns? How would you describe yourself?

00:32

Well, I'm trans femme mainly on the divers and where girl fits and woman doesn't. So I just use trans fam

00:51

it's a tough question in terms of these hobbies. I love music. Just listening to mainly and collecting music I, I really enjoy. I play a lot of video games. And I've been doing more game design stuff with friends recently. And I've recently gotten into leather working

Olivia 01:24

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

01:28

Yeah, I I'm born and raised in New York City. I actually lived the first five years of my life in Times Square. Which is kind of an insane place to live. There is no real playgrounds or places for kids to play in Times Square. So my mom would take me to the Toys R Us. And I would play at the train table. And that was that was a blast. I love that train table. But then my family moved to Greenwich Village. I actually walked past on wall on my way to school every day. I went to PS 41 And it took me like stupid long to figure out that that was like Stonewall Stonewall and not just you know, some random bar with the same name my

02:29

my childhood was,

02:31

I guess it was it was all right, my family was pretty well off financially. I am the oldest of three siblings. So there was a lot of there was a lot of pressure on me to be to be just to be good and set a good example. Get good grades, do great things whatnot. Because I was kind of I was the oldest of like the children on my on my dad's side, like have any of my cousins on that side as well. So there was a lot of pressure on me. It's kind of be the golden boy. Which I bricked pretty consistently pretty considerably given that I fucked up the whole boy part. You

Olivia 03:23

can you talk about your relationship with your siblings growing up?

03:28

Yeah. Kind of antagonistic. My, my little brother hated competition, hated anything that like, you know, resemble that game that, you know, he couldn't win. So I kind of wasn't able to relate to my little brother that much. And all my siblings and I are three years apart. So my little sister was just too young to really interact with, um, you know, for most of my life, and I'm finally connecting with her, you know, now that she's in high school and stuff. And that's a blast, and I'm really enjoying that. But yeah, growing up, I didn't really I didn't really hang out with my siblings

04:24

to hang out with

04:28

well, it was it was mainly it was mainly friends in in middle school. I had I always had like one or two friends but I was always the type to just kind of go straight home. I had a I was pretty lonely to be honest, especially especially in high school. I I went to I went to Stuyvesant High School, which is you know, pretty rigorous and it burnt me out almost immediate lately and I've been in a state of constant burnout for years now. So I really didn't have the energy to, you know, do anything. So I had, I had a few friends, a few people that I talked to, but I mainly would just go home and kind of attempt to decompress. Before I had to do you know, a shitload of homework, wake up and do it all again, the next day. There, there was a time where my parents were freaking out, because they, they didn't know where I was. And they're like, Oh, my God, you know, like, surgeons out partying, of course, you know, I didn't come out until the middle of college but so in certain dead name there, but yeah, they were, they were like, Oh, my God, like search is not home. Like, we don't know where she is. Like, I can't, I can't get a hold of her on her phone. And I was, I was in like, my room playing video games the whole time. Because I, I had gotten home early, and they just hadn't noticed. Um, but yeah, I didn't, I didn't hang out with many people, I guess the

06:20

most the most social.

06:25

The biggest social circle I have is middle school, there was the yo yo Club, which I was the CO head of. And that was the coolest I've ever been in my life.

Olivia 06:39

So what was your relationship, like with your parents at the time, you talked about your siblings a little bit.

06:49

I mean, my relationship with my parents was alright. Um My, my parents were always very, you know, drink a glass of water, and you'll feel better about it no matter what it was. So I don't think I ever really felt like I could talk to them about anything. And you know, I knew I knew what they wanted. And like, I knew they wanted to, they wanted me to, like, go to Stuyvesant, they wanted me to, you know, go to a good college get good grades. So I did that, because I didn't really have the energy or the passion to formulate another plan. I've never had really much ambition. Or always, I mentioned that to my therapist, and my therapist said maybe it's because you've never had space for your own ambition. So that could be it. But yeah, my my parents were kind. And, you know, I I had like, a pretty solid relationship with them, but you know, they were always kind of just the people that I lived with. If I was, I'm pretty autistic. And my mom would always joke about stuff that I used to do when I was when I was a kid. And I used to when I got excited, I used to sort of flat my ears I used to with my hands I would just like hit my ears. Which I'm now recognizing, feels like a pretty obvious view feels like a pretty obvious stim My mom never got me tested for that and is only just now being like I'm so sorry like I didn't do anything and I can kind of only say like it's okay and it's not okay

09:03

but like there's nothing that can be done at this point. So my relationship with my parents was was all right. But a little a little estranged.

Olivia 09:18

How did those pressures in middle and high school to always perform manifest and like your life?

09:32

Well, it was a lot of because my path had kind of been like set out for me.

09:41

I kind of was very, very used to operating on burnout and I kind of I did everything in a little bit of a stupor. I just kind of drifted and I got good grades. Um, cuz I, you know, I can do it. Um, but it was always like, okay, like you have to apply for colleges now. Okay, shit, I'll apply for colleges.

10:18

Like, do this Alright, do this alright. And so yeah, I guess I just got very used to

10:31

kind of operating on what they wanted. And I it's left me at a point where it's been pretty tough to, like, connect with what I'm actually feeling or want at any point in time.

Olivia 10:48

Can you talk a little bit about

Olivia 10:57

mental health and having clinical depression, you mentioned burnout and being autistic a little bit. But if you could explain on the other things as well, because I bet definitely all those pressures influenced that.

11:11

Yeah. It was, yeah, that, that burnout of like, eventually was, you know, I realized like this, this is probably more than burnout and I, you know, sought help for it. And I, you know, I have I was diagnosed with major depressive disorder, I was diagnosed with dysthymia. Which is a sort of, instead of where, where, like, other depressive disorders will give periods of intense depression, I never really had those and I'm, I more just had this constant rain cloud hanging over my head. And

12:03

it's, yeah, it made it very hard to do anything, I was just, I constantly had no energy. And I'm assuming this for y'all. So, you know, contributed to this. Because it, you know, contributes to everything. But I just really had no, no energy or desire to connect with, to connect with the people around me.

12:33

And it was hard, it was, you know, going through everything, like, in a in a, I just need to get to the next day mindset.

12:45

And I in the, like, in the middle of, in the middle of like, sophomore year, I had a I actually almost killed myself, because I kind of had a thought I was like, you know, if this like, after this school, I'm gonna have another school after that school, I'm going to have work, and it's never really going to end. So if this is what the rest of my life is going to be like, I don't want it. And I talked myself out of it, but it was, you know, it's still, that rain cloud was still there. And it was, it was really tough.

13:32

Can you talk about

Olivia 13:33

gender, and how gender affected you growing up?

13:40

Yeah. It was always a bit of an optimization game. Because I was expected to leverage the advantages that I was born with, you know, my parents being solidly well off. Me being a white man in this society. I was supposed to leverage that. And, you know, get a good job for myself in a comfortable life. So it didn't leave a lot of room for me to question anything, because if because if I did question things, and I realized that there was something about me that wasn't, you know, optimal, then you know, I wouldn't, I

wouldn't, I'd be throwing away an advantage. So it was that was one of the main things that stopped me from my gender journey. I realized.

14:54

God I was like in freshman year of high school that I have was probably trans and I talked myself out of it because

15:05

it would have been too much to deal with at the time. I just didn't I didn't have the energy to do anything about it

15:17

and it was, yeah, so so it was always it was always a bit of an optimization game, it was trying to find the the path that people were telling me would be optimal. To try to go for ease than it would to go for something difficult that can potentially make me more happy because I didn't have the energy for easy even so anything more difficult would have. I was afraid it would kill me.

Olivia 15:51

Um, can you talk about gaining access to the internet as a middle schooler? And how that influenced you growing up?

16:01

Yeah, um, that was my, my first social media website that I downloaded was Tumblr. Um, where does that hell of a thing to start with. But yeah, I had a Tumblr and I've never been great at social media. I've never been great at like maintaining a presence. So I didn't really have internet friends or anything like that. But I, you know, lurked, and I learned a lot, I started learning a lot about queer topics. Specifically being exposed to, like, queer porn, people, you know, just talking about queer experiences. And that was kind of like where I, you know, learned about everything. And the other the other social media site that I used pretty heavily was I funny, which is just an absolute hell site. It's a it's a horrible place where no one should ever go. But through through I funny, I found a group chat. Like a group chat, that just, it just had a bunch of fanboys in it. Just a group chat of a bunch of fanboys and none of us were of the age that we, you know, should have been sending naked pictures of ourselves. But we did anyway. Because that was my that was my little crumb. That was my, that was my crumb of queerness that I was that I was able to express queerness in high school, that was kind of where everything rested on. And so it wasn't, it definitely like wasn't good for me. Having, you know, the beginning of queer realization be rooted entirely in sexual contexts. But, you know, it was all I had. And there were one or two people in there that were trans, and they were, they would talk about their experiences sometimes. And that's when I realized I was trans and I had a whole an old breakdown about it. I was like, Oh, God, am I trans? And I it wasn't the prospect of that scaring me it was the prospect of how much work that would be how much like excess work that that would incur upon me to be trans. And you know, I hate to say that I was right but I wish I'm so much happier now. And I wouldn't change anything. If I can go back and do it again. But you know, it is a lot of work. It is a lot of work and it does suck it does suck quite quite frequently

Olivia 19:26

Can you talk about class and how that affected you? And maybe if it ties into social media and anyways

19:34

yeah, I don't I don't think it really tied into social media. Or it kind of did, because like, because I started with Tumblr.

19:48

A lot of what I a lot of what I saw was, you know, people talking about like beyond queerness people just talking about social justice topics like people talking about um, Like the oppression that people face in the US. And it was, I don't know, I kind of got into this mindset of, you know, people. The last people last thing people want is to hear another white boy talk. So I kind of tried to fade my presence into the background a lot. And I overdid it a little bit. To the point where it's, it's now like, I feel like I have to have a negative presence, no matter where I go.

20:54

And

20:57

it's, it's tough to, you know, state my own needs. Because as much as I can try to not have needs, that's not how anything works ever. So yeah, it was, it was a lot of, you know, trying to make my presence as minimal as possible, but also holding on to this because it's an optimization, I guess. It's like an optimization thing. Like, it's, it's something that I was born with, that I never felt like I deserved, but you know, I have it, so I may as well use it.

21:39

And it was, yeah, it was constantly hanging over me.

Olivia 21:48

So

21:51

can you talk

Olivia 21:53

a little bit longer about when you started to realize maybe your sexuality, or maybe how you were coming into being lesbian are your queerness? Or your gender? A bit more? You mentioned how you had thoughts about it in ninth grade, and you kind of were like, Nope, can't have these thoughts. So when did you allow yourself to finally start having these thoughts and start processing them?

22:22

Yeah. In terms of honestly thinking about, like, when it comes to sexuality, I've you know, always kind of dismissed that because it seemed like something that wasn't that big of a deal to me, I my, I have an aunt who's a lesbian, my piano teacher was gay. And in a in elementary school, I was I was kind of

singled out there was the there was the I don't know how elementary schoolers can always read people as consistently as they do. But I kind of got singled out as like the gay kid and I realized that I was not fighting those allegations, because if I fought those allegations, the joke would be funnier. So if I just went along with them, then hopefully I would be laughing with them. So that was my like, first experience with sexuality but I only finally started getting to have a healthy relationship with my sexuality pretty recently being more comfortable as a trans woman as just allowed me to think more on more on what I want and I'm now in a phenomena relationship where I can think more freely about sexual desire. And just like what I'm what I'm into more and I was always kind of afraid of the term lesbian because it's feels it felt to me like a large term that a lot of weight to it. And it felt like by using it, I was appropriating something that I didn't deserve so it took it took a it took a long time, and it's it was my current partner right now that kind of talked to me about it, and was just like, dude, just be a lesbian. You can just be a lesbian, like it doesn't really doesn't matter. You don't have to think about it too much. If you feel like a lesbian, you're a lesbian. And that, like putting it so simply like that was was a big deal for me. That and just being introduced to more lesbian spaces. I still like there's a lot of like queer powers in New York that I haven't been to. Because I never really got a chance to explore that, but yeah, I don't know I've been going to gingers more recently that that place is great. Then big big gingers.

Olivia 25:37

Yeah, what your first exposure to lesbianism was?

25:40

Yeah. My first exposure to it was definitely my aunt. And she she's married to a woman they have two kids and it was it was treated as pretty normal by my family. Which I you know, feel very lucky to be able to say my family has been pretty accepting of that kind of thing. And it was so my first exposure lesbian was just a happy lesbian family

26:21

super super cute. They're both of them are sis women. But yeah, I was exposed to it by you know, the definition of

26:35

like, lesbianism is when two women date. And I think that definitely contributed to the the whole

26:45

not not feeling like I was allowed to use that term. Is like To what extent do I count as a woman?

Olivia 26:59

So can you talk about? Can you talk about a close eye always? Okay, I installed this cat shelf. Don't know, don't look too closely. Don't know if I did it. Right. And so every time she jumps on it, like I touch a little bit. Like she jumped from the couch to the shelf once and I was like, Don't do that. I mean, don't look too closely. I know you're an engineer, but I'm like,

27:37

Yeah, I was gonna say honestly, the engineering knowledge I have is saying that that's pretty sturdy. Like that. That looks pretty. That looks good. Did

Olivia 27:44

it feel confidently about it? Because I didn't know if the shelf ledge was long enough to like support cuz it's just like, pressure or something?

27:51

Yeah, I mean, the longer you have a like, it's, it's a moment. So like, that's definitely a twisting force. So if you have something that's going to twist, like here, if you put a weight here, then if you put the same weight here, it's going to be a higher moment because it's the it's the force times the distance to the point of rotation. So if you have a if you if you apply further along the edge that it's easy to turn every

Olivia 28:23

physics like test that I ever took, like wrote an essay about the stars for like my final physics exam in high school. Got an 85 I didn't even answer any of the questions real. Fail everything else though. I used to go in early and like do test corrections to get halfings wrapped up 30 to 60.

28:43

Hell yeah. Let's go.

Olivia 28:47

Give me an 85 for the whole year. I was like, That can't be right. Honestly, we take those like year you got to learn anyways. Sorry, that's

Olivia 28:56

I suppose like my eyes switch every time she does it. Um, so Starbucks Starbucks, like wrapped around my tooth in a horrible way.

29:11

Oh, that's what I mean. Yeah, no, that's bad. It's a bad bad feeling.

Olivia 29:16

Have clothing, jewelry, makeup, tattoos, piercings, other body mods or like other forms of gendered expression associated with affirming your identities or your lesbianism in any way?

29:29

Oh, yeah. 100%. Um, I have a I have a thing with tattoos. Because I've kind of always been interested in them and I've always wanted them.

29:43

But, you know, I don't have any tattoos and it's because my parents are opposed to them, and I rely on them to eat so my dad She and he actually said this. He said, like you can't. He said, Sir, you can't get a tattoo. Because getting a tattoo will forever brand you as a member of the lower class. And I was like,

Jesus fucking Christ. Like, that's an insane thing to say to a kid. First of all, I was in like, high school. I was like, that's, that's an insane, like, an insane, insane, insane thing to say. In New

30:28

York, running like Greenwich to exactly so like,

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that was like the 2010s Yeah, the motherfucker worked

30:37

on Wall Street. I think it rotted his brain. But yeah, it's I've always wanted to, you know, to get tattoos and to modify my body in I mean, that kind of way because I as much as I like HRT, it's a there's a slowness to it that isn't satisfying. It's like, I've always like I always kind of wanted transition to be as fast and as painful as possible. So like, if it all was done in one instant of blinding pain. That's kind of what I wanted. And so that's kind of the concept of of tattoos. For me being able to finally enjoy my body to be able to decorate it the way that I want to is always been something that's incredibly appealing to me and I've been able to get that quite a lot through through piercings, I have two piercings in each of my ears and I recently got my navel pierced and it was incredibly affirming for me to have that to have that physical mark on my body of a time that I've you know taken my own bodily autonomy back for myself instead of having it be another thing that I was supposed to leave up to optimization but it's yeah, it's a mark of taking it for myself and having it's something that I enjoy looking at it makes me feel like I look good. And clothing jewelry and makeup also also pretty pretty key I often joke that I transitioned for the clothes cuz I don't know I would always when I thought I was a boy I was always like girls get all the cooler clothes like girls get so much right incredibly cisgender thought oh look so much girls look so much better they have they got all the cool clothes I wish I wish me who is definitely our boy like had clothes that are that cool

33:22

yeah

33:31

you need a soundboard I don't like air horn sound effect design horn the vine boom sound so I almost killed myself in high school. exam but yeah, clothing jewelry makeup.

33:53

It's just Yeah, I love him. I love being able to you know, just decorate my body and actually appreciate it growing up male you're not supposed to appreciate, you know the way or interact with the way that you look at all. You know, guys get like two outfits. It's all shirt and pants all the way down. And then you have the formal version of shirt and pants. And

34:26

that's the those are the socially acceptable outfits.

34:28

Otherwise, you know, you get singled out as queer. And, yeah, that sucks. There's not really any mutability there. There's no real wiggle room. So finally being able to seize control of my own body is clothing, jewelry, makeup, tattoos, piercings. hugely, hugely influential in that it's been the key part for for me.

Olivia 35:03

So can you talk about coming out? G believing it had to come out multiple times before? And does the phrase coming into your identity resonate with you more?

35:17

Ah I think coming into my identity definitely resonates more with me because I I had I had a fun bit where for a long time, I never came out to anybody. I would just act fruity as hell around people until they asked questions. Because I didn't want to start that conversation. I like I didn't want to. I didn't want to be the one that brought that up because it feels awkward. But yeah, like sometimes my mom would take me out to lunch and be like, Sasha Are you gay? And I was like,

36:04

Where's this coming from?

36:08

And that's how I that's how I first came out to my mom was bisexual and Oops, that was incorrect. You know we

36:16

we off bisexual sis person?

36:18

Yes. I was a bisexual man for a while.

36:24

I did my I did my stint as a bisexual man

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didn't have fun with it happens. It happens. It happens to the best of us.

36:36

At some point, bisexual for a long time. How's that working out for you? It was a lesbian obviously.

36:48

Yeah, you can just knock you can just ignore the

36:52

10 and say I'm a lesbian. It's never occurred to me. That never occurred to me either. I thought because that 10% was there then I had to include it. And then

37:00

it wasn't even though because I was like animated men.

37:03

Yeah, I feel Yeah, it's Oh, it's always the animated men. I feel like that's a that's a key thing about like,

37:08

that's the thing about masculinity. You guys if you act the slightest bit fruity as a man.

37:16

You're gay. You're gay. It does not matter. It doesn't matter. It's like it's very it's very damning.

37:32

And oh, yeah. Coming out. Yeah, I don't know. I went through so many changes. With with my gender identity, and stuff. When I actually started estrogen. I thought I was non binary. And I was just like, I'm incredibly depressed. Something needs to change in my life. Fuck it. I'm starting estrogen. Second, I got the slightest bit of pity. I was like, Oh, I'm a woman. Give me more of that shit. Fuck low dose for androgynous looks. No, give me the boobs. Give me the Teddy Skittles, please, for the love of God. Just give me give me more. So yeah, it's always been like the slow, steady journey of coming into my own identity. And the most the most satisfying coming out experience that I've ever had was with my roommate, Jared. And Jared is basically my sibling now. Like, I love I love Jared, we we were matched randomly as roommates in freshman year, and we had the same favorite video game. So we just were very, very quickly best friends. And I remember I mentioned to Jared, I was like, hey, I want to try out Sesha as a name. Do you mind? You mind using that name for me? For a little while. And his response was Hell yeah. Hell yeah. That's it. That's it. And that was the most whatever. It was like the instant acceptance in that hell yeah. It was the same hell yeah. He

39:24

used when I was like, Do you want to get burgers for dinner? Oh, yeah. Hell yeah.

39:32

I'm transgender. Hell, yeah. Jared was just with it. Jared was just instantly on board. This year. Jared, Jared is lovely. She's great.

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Experimenting with any pronouns now. So you know, what they say about transgenderism? It's contagious. Everyone gets it's so contagious. because it's so contagious, it's so contagious.

40:06

I was turned

40:09

me to I was

40:10

turned by ditches on this project. They turned me. Yeah, I was

40:14

turning into one because I made a I made a joke about, like the Reddit page egg IRL on like the NYU d&d server.

40:23

That server is interesting.

40:26

It's an interesting server. But then Margo, you know, Margo, Margo, is Yeah. And then Margo hit me up, and was like, Hey, I have bad news for you.

40:36

Damn, you're probably a woman.

40:40

What a crazy way to get told that you're that you're probably treads.

40:44

She was like, she was like, not bad news. But news you're probably not gonna want to hear.

40:49

That's crazy how that happened.

40:51

It was why I remember my reaction was like, Yeah, I know. I know. I just don't want to do anything about it. And Margo was like, okay, like, just hear all your resources. You do if you ever want to talk about it, rather to talk about it. It was like a link to calanoid it was a link to Callen. Lorde. Yeah. And also I hung out with Margo, a few times. And Margo is just pretty much

41:19

honestly, yeah. I mean,

41:22

like nothing but stay safe. Truly.

41:26

Use enforce them.

41:30

It was more than that. There are things about me and about masculinity that I definitely like, and I thought that being a trend and I thought liking that precluded, like disqualified me from womanhood and seeing Margo as like a butch trans woman, which was like, I was like, I didn't know you could do that. Like I didn't.

42:00

Interesting.

42:01

I was like, I didn't know that was allowed. It's I don't like you're telling me I don't have to throw up my fucking cargo pants. I

42:07

can keep them ships.

42:09

Tanks, love. Love cargo pants.

Olivia 42:12

You know what, literally after this, I'm going to gingers. I'm gonna see lots of cargo underpants.

42:15

I'm gonna be like, they're great. They're great. I love them. People that

42:19

aren't me.

42:20

I'm wearing a I'm wearing a fairly femme outfit right now. But I love like, cargo pants and shit and

42:28

sexy people that aren't me. I think they look hot. They're great.

42:32

They're great. There's so much fun. And I mean, as you can definitely hear from my voice. I don't voice train because I don't want to just look at

Olivia 42:39

girl and pants though. Just like a girl in cargo pants. You're just like a dyke. Yeah, that's just how we dress.

42:45

Like, it's just like, I can do that in a Nike way. And it's not like, I'm not like, it doesn't preclude me from being a woman doesn't disqualify me.

42:57

That was that was huge for

42:58

me. That was huge for me shout out to Margot Margot. DND discovered,

Olivia 43:05

but I read it all the time talking about my group that I was in but hasn't happened in more miles. I hope she's okay. Like our DM just hasn't been responding. And I'm like, I hope she's okay. Like mentally.

43:19

Oh, is that is it? Oh, miles.

Olivia 43:23

Back. Big. Big afro. Very cool. She's very cool. Oh, she's okay. I was gonna my check to see respond. Yeah, so like a month and I'm like, maybe, let me know if you're a lot. Anyway, hopefully

43:40

this busy with school or something, hopefully, hopefully, fingers crossed, fingers crossed on like

Olivia 43:46

medical leave. And I was like, Girl, when did this happen? She's like, last semester. I was like, but you never

43:51

someone in one of my school groups was like, yeah, guys, I can't make it to this meeting. today. I'm in the emergency room. And we were like, What the fuck? We're

Olivia 43:58

like, we don't care. Please be safe. Like, do you want us to go to the emergency? Like I was like, Do you need help? Like, you're like, hey, so I just have like, the worst series of events happened to me in the world, but sorry, I can't make

44:11

it. Okay, if I can't make it to this meeting, like yes, it's okay. What the

44:15

bugs. Please take care of

44:17

your care of yourself. Yeah.

Olivia 44:21

I don't know what I was gonna say. Oh, I saw a video of you. shooting pool at gingers. Oh, yeah. Erin, I'll put it like, on wasn't honest. Yeah, it was on his story. Yeah. And I was like, gay. Because you're wearing like cargo pants.

44:38

I was wearing cargo pants on a sports bra.

Olivia 44:41

And you were like leaning on the pool table. Everyone was watching you. Was that like, was that your like? I was that was like your main character girl moment.

44:50

I was I looking back at that video. I

44:53

you got to do that. So I was like, that's a dark moment.

44:55

Do you want me to donate that video? I'm happy to donate that video drives

Olivia 44:59

Sasha off after the shower because poses sip.

45:03

That's so cute.

45:04

It's really cute. That's so cute.

45:06

That's amazing.

45:08

Yeah. It's funny,

45:10

but uh, yeah, I for the record, I did lose that game. But it was because I sunk the eight ball at the start and oh yeah. Bucha I was playing guys. It was like, Do you want to just finish the game out and I ended up like cleaning them out. Like, I finished they had like six balls left and they were like, you know, you're done already. And I was like, if I hadn't saw get a ball. I would have wiped this fucking bar. I swear to God. So I'm watching them play pool. I'm gonna I'm gonna have my I'm gonna have my winning at pool moment at gingers at some at some point. I I swear it.

45:46

watching them play y'all are sexy.

45:48

It's fun. It's a fun game.

Olivia 45:50

I guess so. I'm not doing so chuffed about your first encounters with lesbian sex?

45:59

Oh, hell yeah. I'm poor. Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, I

46:09

know those exciting you've been all day was the second question.

46:15

I'm a sex fan. I'm a fan of sex. What can I say? What can you say? What can I say?

46:22

I dated I dated woman for years, but it was never really defined as a lesbian relationship. So I don't really

46:30

I don't really count that. Um, so my first experience with lesbian sex with Ariel. And we, we were just hanging out in the park that day. And that was it was not supposed to be a date.

46:49

Um, but we ended up on a bench by the lake at sunset, there was like a family of raccoons. And like some geese flood, it was scenic as fuck, it was insane. And it was also like a little bit chilly. So area, like, you know, moves closer to me. And I was like, you know, at some point, like, we're gonna have to talk about, like, this tension between us. I started that, you know, with the intention of being like, you know, like, both of us are like, recently out of a relationship, like, I don't know if like a relationship is gonna be good for me at this point in time, et cetera, et cetera. What ended up happening is we slept together. That night, I I remember sending an email to a professor getting an extension on an assignment specifically to sleep with Ariel. And it was great. It was so wonderful and so affirming to sleep with someone who just you know, sees you in the way that you want to be seen. Knowing that Ariel is very proudly and very vocally a lesbian. Made just made me feel very validated. And I'm very sure that I was being seen in the way that I wanted to be. And I still remember I wanted to play it safe. So So that night, I was like, hey, like, is it okay? If like, my underwear doesn't come off? Because I didn't. I don't want to deal with it. Some days, some days, you don't want to deal with your own genitals. And area was like, oh, yeah, of course. No questions. No questions, nothing. And we just continued like that. And according to the like, quote, unquote, textbook of life. Like due to the timing of things. I remember I woke up that next morning, I was like, Okay, this is where I feel regret, right? Like this is where I'm supposed to feel like regret because this like, I guess is probably like a rebound. Right? I

woke up and I sat there for a second and that regret didn't come. It didn't. It didn't happen. I just felt comfortable.

49:30

I felt comfortable, it was warm. And it was just a very it was an affirming experience that I felt was just so

49:46

unquestioning. Like, were like, making sure that everyone was comfortable in that situation was like such a given that it wasn't there wasn't anything to focus on but, but Ariel

50:10

It was awesome. It was great.

50:14

Were you nervous to have absolutely

50:15

absolutely. Um being sniffed by your toes. I don't think she will. I think Joe biter caught up to him

50:38

I gotta watch out for my toes. Yeah, I've got I've got socks on, so I should be okay. This cat,

50:49

just relax. But, uh, you're talking about what

50:54

was the question? Oh, yeah, it was I was nervous. Yeah. Um sex as a concept has always been something I've been really interested in. I, you know, I had a hyper fixation on sex toys for like years. It's always been something that's very important to me and my identity. But definitely something that people don't talk about is that sex is terrifying. Sex is inherently so fucking scary. It's such a vulnerable thing to do. And, you know, being trans, like, there's always a lot of worry that I have around my own body. And I was, you know, going into lesbian sex as a trans woman. So, of course, I was I was worried, you know about all those things like, am I am I going to be seen my like, as, as I want to be seen? Am I going to be? Is this going to be a validating experience for me? And

52:05

Ariel was very adamant about like, hey, this only has to go as far as you want it to go. I've made sure that I could take the lead. And it was just in accordance with what I wanted and what I was comfortable with. And just Yeah, took every every precaution to make sure I

52:33

felt safe. So yeah, it was so of course, I was nervous.

52:41

But, uh, once I realized that I had been that I was being seen the way I wanted to be seen and was that just kind of melted away?

Olivia 52:53

Thank you. So can you talk about how you negotiate your lesbian identity in different spaces? Like maybe you talk a little bit about to yourself, but what about to like different queer spaces, they'd be like trans and sis spaces, or to straight people or to your own family, and at work and at school just like different spaces about how you think about your lesbianism, and your gender.

53:19

It's this I get my thoughts on this are very influenced by very influenced by aerial. I feel like because aerials what I learned a lot of lesbianism from

53:38

it's yeah, that word negotiates tripping me up, because My instant reaction is that I don't want to negotiate that. Like it's not something that's not something that I'm going to negotiate true.

Olivia 53:52

Like how you work through, or you can say like how you can just talk about, because some people talk about how they existed as a lesbian differently in different spaces. Some people talk about, okay, maybe I'm in this space in like a black space, and maybe I emphasize my blackness more, versus my lesbianism, or, Oh, I'm in this sis lesbian space, and maybe I emphasize my lesbianism over my transness or if people feel like, Oh, I didn't have to negotiate anything at all, and maybe I found this perfect space where I can be all of these things at once. Yeah, where I'm at school and none of these things are something that like comes into play and like, my life or my conversations, I'd be like, Oh, I like pretend to be straight. And pretend to be like a straight woman at work, things like that. I feel like you shouldn't have to but

54:51

exactly it. For me, I think in a lot of spaces. In a lot of spaces, I'm always a trans woman. First, because it feels like that's going to be something that people notice immediately about me. So I think, like for me, which is especially because of my voice, like my voice is gonna get me clocked immediately. And I don't intend to change that. That's our other people problem, you know? Yeah.

55:24

Then problem then problem

55:25

exactly. Is the issue not an issue me

55:33

it's it's something I think it's incredibly important to be to be openly trans. And given that I am someone who has the privilege to be able to do that safely. I want to do it as much as possible. I want to be

openly trans when it comes up, I'm not ever going to hide that I'm that I'm a lesbian you asking the wrong bitch I'm a dyke is an incredibly funny sentence in so many scenarios. And it's too funny to pass up. But beyond just joking about it. It's something that I'm proud of being at a point in my life, where I can proudly say like, Yeah, I'm a lesbian is

56:36

it's a huge point of pride for me. So it's, it's present, and it's there. But I feel like it's just behind my trans this. Because my trans this is what people notice about me. So

56:59

wherever I am, my lesbian is all my lives. And my lesbianism is also entirely in the context of myself as a trans woman, so

57:12

like, it doesn't it doesn't make any sense. It was it was impressive. It was a valiant was cramping.

57:20

happens to the best of us. Yeah, so in lesbian spaces. Yeah, I'm a I'm a trans lesbian, that the trans comes first. Lesbians are damn close second, because my trans This is my lesbianism is defined in transness. But that also is inverse. Because my, my transness is defined in my lesbianism. I'm not, you know, just a woman like, I'm a dyke. Like, that's, that's its own flavor. And it's the flavor that fits me best.

Olivia 58:00

So now we're getting to the parks where you were talking about your interactions with yourself and the lesbian community, your lesbian community are broad understandings of lesbianism and lesbian communities. So can you talk about you've just kind of spoke about it a little bit, but can you talk about how your gender identity informs your interactions with lesbian community that kind of builds off the question you just I just asked you. And can you talk about being a trans woman?

58:30

Like, being in communities? Yeah, being trans and lesbian is one of the reasons I'm so open about it, because it's a very, it's a very good litmus test. I've been fortunate enough not to meet any of these people in real life, but there are people that are no turfs exist. Like, there are people who do not include like trans women and trans masks

59:02

in the lesbian community and you know, they, they do not get it, they do not understand. They do not understand the concept. So being forward with my transness.

59:25

Is Yeah, it's important to me to make sure that that's filtered out.

59:32

Because interacting with trans lesbians you know, guarantees that they're that these are people who understand, these are people that that get it that lesbianism is not really, you know, a concept that's so easily defined in words. It's easily defined just by the people in the community. And as something that You know what, when you feel it more than you know it when you hear the definition and the people that will understand it in the same way that I do are our trans people. Guaranteed. There's a whole lot of sis people that understand, but you can also find them by, you know, me being openly trans. And you can immediately find out if they're with it or not.

Olivia 1:00:29

So, we're going to backtrack a step. And I'm going to ask you about what forms of media like video games, like art, film, movies, writing, poetry, Film, film,

1:00:49

watch film. Do you all like Wes Anderson?

Olivia 1:00:56

I don't even know what movies that dude makes. I did shrooms with this girl at one point person stare but I don't know anything else. The Kubrick stereo fuck. So Wes Anderson, like the symmetry and then White. Yeah, with the colors.

1:01:11

Then white people with the colors. It's a good summary of the Wes Anderson movie.

1:01:17

We're seeing one that I know

1:01:18

I've only seen one. It was Grand Budapest Hotel. And that was the only it was that was the only movie I've seen with Sir Sharon in it. And that's the only famous search I know. And it's kind of right. And then they got all them colors. You're so right.

Olivia 1:01:35

Genius. Okay. You were like, really? Okay. So I realized I forgot I skipped this question. Yeah, by accident. But I remember it now when we were talking about shit that you like to do. And I was like, Oh, I forgot. Yeah. So can you talk about like video games and then other media that you consume that influences your lesbianism? Or your or your thought I hit my coffee down but then I moved it back a corner. Because I knew I was probably going to hit it at some point.

1:02:07

The foresight the third eye is open.

Olivia 1:02:11

Okay, I've been telling everyone everyone I mean, like you and like, so like,

1:02:18

literally everyone that's literally

Olivia 1:02:20

feeling like super cerebral today. I'm just like, super like mind heavy. You know? I just been like, say

1:02:31

this is Oh, this is what I was saying. I did. I did shrooms with this with Ariel and this other girl. And I was just sitting on Ariel's bed. You know, like playing with the cat. This other girl walks in and is like Sasha, I understand movies.

1:02:49

Like as a constant.

1:02:52

And that makes so much sense. I know exactly what she's talking about.

1:02:58

Ariel Ariel walks in a little bit out there is like do y'all think I'm cerebral?

1:03:02

No.

1:03:05

And I was like, bro, I'm literally just sitting here. This was this was while we were on the pre stream conversation. No, it was it was mid shrew.

1:03:14

Ariel's that cerebral. You know what?

1:03:18

It depends? Depends. It depends.

1:03:22

It depends.

1:03:23

It definitely depends. But damn media. Yeah. It's it's been a lot of video games. I've always played a lot of video games.

1:03:36

Why did you choose video games? Video games was

1:03:39

just mainly, it was mainly a stimulation thing. Because it is. Whenever I am watching something, I ended up chewing the living shit out of my nails. Yeah, and it fucks me over and I like having something.

Olivia 1:03:57

You should get a Japanese gel manicure.

1:03:59

Oh, are those the soft ones? Those sound really

1:04:03

nice that I like going to you should send me should just go together.

1:04:06

That would be fucking awesome. Yeah, I would love that. Yeah. Anyway, keep talking. But yeah, I so I ended up playing a lot of video games because you know, it was the it was like the physical stimulation of like something that I was doing with my hands as well as audio and visual stimulation. And I really I really enjoyed that. I liked fast paced things that if there was so much going on that where I didn't have to I didn't have to think much. And in terms of informing my lesbianism I think the biggest one would definitely have to be called the simulator. I love that game. I told you I would talk about it. You have to

1:04:53

talk about it. I have to talk about it. No, I've never heard this truly.

1:04:57

But yeah, this cultist simulator is a fantastic game. It's it's entirely card based. It's, it's a video game, but it's like the user interface is based on cards and you place them in tiles and for whatever action you want to do, like there's the work tile, there's the top tile, there's study, dream. couple others, it's like Explorer is one of them. And there's all these tiles that pop up that you interact with, um, but it was the it was mainly the lore of that game that influenced me. It was the just the way that the gods were set up, I was I was raised. I was raised Catholic. And, you know, it was always a very, very singular kind of boring view of religion. Because there's not much to it, that they that they teach you in church and Catholicism is pretty rad if they, you know, teach you the fun parts, but they never teach it the fun parts. But this cultist simulator is, it has this pantheon of gods that are very conceptual. Like there's the red Grail, who is this representation of the birth and the feast, which is sort of pleasure and physical sensation and like the bloodiest way possible. It's very like rooted in rooted in like flesh and desire. There's moth which is the aspect of chaos and this strange pantheon of gods that you know, don't really care about humanity but will pay attention to the things that they are interested in feels so much more wholesome, like if there's a if you have one God and you trip while walking across the street, then that's according to God's plan. And that sucks. That's not fun. That means somewhere in God's plan with me eating shit in the middle of the street, and that like why was that in there?

1:07:12

Take that out. Like what did that do? Truly, why did I need to be sad? They're supposed to suffer God, but Catholics Love y'all love that shit.

1:07:23

truly love, love human suffering. But the the way that cultist simulator looks at pleasure, which desire and has it recontextualized how I viewed the Catholic forms of sin. It just put up in a new context under which I understood my my own relationship to pleasure and you know, seeking pleasure because there's a lot especially in trans some circles, you know, there's the whole auto gyno philia thing where that is something that you know people worry about, it's like, am I a woman? Or is this just a weird fetish? And it's like never a weird fetish. It's never a weird fetish, but because that rhetoric is going around having any sexual interest in your own body and your own experience, you know, with sex automatically, you know, gets categorized as such and that fucking sucks. So, having this new relationship with desire and pleasure is it was just so important. Like feeling like I was allowed to seek pleasure feeling like I was like, it was a good thing that I am sort of chasing material wants because you know, what else what else are we on Earth for you know? So that video game was was super important to me. And then the other classic is dungeons of dragons and other role playing games. My one of my d&d characters used she he or she, her pronouns, she horse. She heard pronouns before, before I did.

1:09:30

She was kind of gender she truly

1:09:34

just unlock something. More tattooed on themselves.

1:09:38

Truly, that's like that's a vegan tattoo. Actually. I'm not gonna write that down. No, you should.

Olivia 1:09:44

Like first one. Um, she's second one war. She or

1:09:49

truly,

1:09:50

my dad, keep going.

1:09:53

But yeah, my like one of my characters use your pronouns before I knew that was something I liked. My first dean Did character I use to try out a name that I wanted to see if I liked and I found out in therapy that one of my characters that I am most proud of is a very long strung out metaphor for my own gender my own relationship to my transmits

1:10:19

to self insert, truly.

1:10:24

I mean all d&d characters or OCS Thursday sword lesbians. I haven't played this yet.

1:10:29

How am I want to get a grip? Together for the summer?

1:10:33

i Oh, I would love that. I would love that so much. I've been meaning to play this game for so fucking long. You don't want

1:10:44

to it's happening this summer.

1:10:46

Hell yes. But it's Yeah, so that character that that I was playing was like a like a monster just like a very, very grotesque character that was supposed to be part of some great ritual to become this higher being. This being of perfect flesh uses they them pronouns, they them plural. Because their mind is a collection of consciousnesses are there they're a druid that that that ritual combines a bunch of novice druids together into one amalgam, but the ritual was interrupted and my character is left is this Frankenstein abomination. Of stitch two together flesh and blood that leaks this toxic blood as she walks in as covered in bandages to try to stop that from happening. And it's just constantly run out of towns, but the the game itself takes place in the curse of strahd universe takes place in burrow via where everything is spooky and bad. Shit Happens all the time. So my character I'm playing strat, yeah, so my character goes into these villages. And people are like, you know, this is not even the weirdest thing that we've seen today. Like, let alone this was like, yeah, they were like not being run out of these villages is actually a really lovely experience.

1:12:19

And I like because of that next time they leveled up, I took this feat that like,

1:12:24

their their race is a it's a homebrew race called the mummy. And it's, I took like, there's an extra feat of that called necrotic. Affinity. Okay, that's fine. And it gives her an extra point in charisma. And she didn't care. Yeah, because like, so she gained more self confidence because of that, and but yeah, she's this hulking monstrosity with a big fucking sword. And I love her. But that's, I realized that was, you know, my own sort of internalized transphobia sort of seeing myself as this weird abomination. And trying to find affirmation and seeing myself as a weird abomination, but realizing that what I was seeing myself as was just not that bad, really. And I could just, I can just exist the way I want without trying to have trying to have to, like justify it.

1:13:27

So can you talk a little

Olivia 1:13:32

bit British because I actually like met a British Persian Persian person, and it was real honestly. Like person, I guess, but it was like real awkward, because I was at the archives. And then I opened the door because I was browsing. I was doing browsing hours, and I was like, Mo

1:13:49

this British couple that like, came straight from the UK, like, straight from the get and I was like, Whoa, and then they were like, hello,

1:13:58

Roy, what's all these things?

Olivia 1:14:01

Really? I was like, that's like a real bread. And I had to stop. I didn't think I was making fun of them.

1:14:11

Honestly, I think you didn't make fun of British people more.

Olivia 1:14:14

Not when I was staffing. Yeah, that's rough their first lesbian space ever. And I was just like, no love. Bullies. As opposed to No, they were gonna be British at

1:14:26

the door. Yeah, who knew British people were

1:14:28

like Helena though. There's like a British

1:14:31

thing. I guess. So anyways.

1:14:36

Can you run to the bathroom? Yes. Thank you so much.

Olivia 1:14:42

How does religion inform your actions of lesbian community since we were just talking about cold dissimulate sin simulator, and Catholicism and spirituality and all that stuff? Yeah,

1:14:55

I think it's incredibly I think it's incredibly important to me, um, Religion and Spirituality incredibly gay, fruity as hell to be to be religious to be honest. Ariel is is pretty into witchcraft. We had like this ritualistic bath where we poured like Moon water on each other it was it was so unbelievably get Yeah. It was so unbelievably gay there was like, like we were burning like herbs and shit. And it was a lot of the time before we have sex we smokeable with Damien in it, which is an aphrodisiac. And it like, it adds like a

little bit of like a ritualistic element to it. It's fun, it's really nice. So there's that. And then also just like, you know, my understanding of like, I was talking about like, my, my relationship to pleasure being religious and spiritual in a way that having these good relationships with pleasure and enjoying life is something that is not something that I have to feel bad about and is instead something that is wholly something that is important. Something that is sacred is so important to me in feeling comfortable with myself and feeling good about my own body. And I never really had a lot of Christian religious trauma a i My family always just kind of only went to church on Easter and Easter and Christmas. But I've been going to a lot of a lot of more Christian events. I spoke at a church on Trans Day of Remembrance last year.

1:17:08

I was like, Well, that makes sense. Yeah,

1:17:11

it was. It was awesome. Everyone who spoke was trans. That day. That sermon was done by my friend motya is a trans man. We love mafia. incredibly high. Look to look great in the priests uniform.

1:17:29

You got to show me later. Oh, I will. Put down Yeah. I feel like I must be ovulating or something. Or like it's a full moon.

1:17:42

Yeah, you know, that'll happen. But yeah, I

1:17:46

did that.

1:17:46

I went to a baptism the other day like a gay one. Like my, like a regular one.

1:17:53

My my friend Brandon, who's trans mask wanted to get baptized make sense?

1:17:58

Okay, one.

1:17:58

Yeah. Okay with the with the new name. Oh.

1:18:04

And so I went to fucking Easter mess.

1:18:09

I didn't I ended up not staying for the Eucharist. But because it's long. Yeah, it was it was gonna take ages. But you know, I stayed there for the baptism and it was just a really, really strange experience. But yeah, I think religion and spirituality is it's very important to me, making sure that my experience of transness and lesbianism is rooted in feeling a little bit magic. feeling just a little bit. Supernatural is very important to me. Because it really makes it seem so much larger than life.

Olivia 1:19:04

Sorry. Can you talk about mental health, mental illness and in being autistic and how that informs your actions lesbian community making meeting lesbians maintaining lesbian friendships and stuff?

1:19:17

Yeah, it's awesome. Honestly. So many of these bitches are autistic. I wonder who they are? Yeah, like it's it's insane. There's so many. There's so many. Especially trans lesbians who also struggle with a lot of mental illness. Yeah. And that makes it so much easier to you know, voice needs. Like if I feel burnt out like if I you know, get overstimulated somewhere. I can just say that. And people around me are like, oh, yeah, real. Honestly, I was getting overstimulated too. Let's go outside for A sec and it's not questioned at all I'm

1:20:07

also I love listening to these bitches hyper fixate on things you learned the most insane shit. I haven't played Warhammer in years and this girl talk to me for like God like an hour about Warhammer lore. It was awesome. Orcs, Orcs. Do you know about the orcs how they're like? They're the most powerful psychics in the universe.

1:20:36

Like that doesn't make sense that and they don't they don't know it.

1:20:41

Because there's stupid like yeah

Olivia 1:20:46

I know about Warhammer lore, different autistic infodump not me. But I listen to someone else talk about

1:20:52

it. Oh, yeah. That's like how do you hang out?

1:20:55

If you hang out with trans lesbians you you you've learned about Warhammer that's just how

Olivia 1:20:59

for 37 minutes about cultist simulator in your pre interview

1:21:04

did I actually

Olivia 1:21:08

I know a lot about cultist simulator. We even like went through the cards

1:21:17

that's crazy. It didn't feel that

Olivia 1:21:20

I wasn't really counting. I just thought it was I wasn't gonna stop you. You just really want to talk about called the simulator. And I was like, Okay.

1:21:29

It was fun. I enjoyed talking about I

1:21:30

love listening. I was like, now I know so much about this game.

1:21:33

But yeah, I love I love learning little pieces of people like that. And given that everyone's mentally ill, it's so much more acceptable for that to happen. Like people like lesbian spaces have become spaces where you're allowed to just like unmask and that's, that's awesome. Like you can be you can be autistic as fuck in lesbian spaces. And most of the time it makes you hotter. Autistic which

1:22:04

is the autistic raise goes crazy.

1:22:07

I can get like bitches and I have never flirted in my whole life.

1:22:12

Right?

1:22:13

I don't even know how to do that.

1:22:14

Because why would you? Why would you try to flirt just talk to I talked about like religion and stuff with a guy for like so, so fucking long.

1:22:29

We made out in the middle of the conversation. And then I talked about cultist simulator for half an hour. And then we left What else were you gonna do? It was great. Talk about something. It was awesome. It was one of the best experiences I've had at a bar.

Olivia 1:22:47

I was like, Look, if I can if I can spend any amount of time talking about the monster romances I read. I will. I'll read I will explain every page

1:22:57

as a proud monster fucker. I'm gonna have to talk to you about that.

1:23:01

Oh, yeah, just so you know. They're not like great works of fiction. Oh,

1:23:05

they never are. You okay?

1:23:09

Do you stab yourself with your pencil? Yeah, I'm bleeding a lot. I did that in second grade. And there's still a piece of lead in my hand.

Olivia 1:23:17

Oh, I see it. Yeah, I stab someone in fourth grade. Not in like an anger thing.

1:23:23

Just for fun.

Olivia 1:23:24

Okay, no. Table. I realized that was not great. I had regulation issues. But I wasn't like stabbing someone. I was just like, just standing. Yeah, yeah, like into the desk. And then she like swipes her hand underneath me. And then I stab her like straight into the wrist. And then I get it wasn't even a mechanical pencil. It was like a wooden pencil but I was just going so hard. Because I like making little dents into my desk corner. Yeah, I got in trouble.

1:23:57

That is that was that's what I said,

1:23:59

bro. You were just doing that. And she shouldn't have put

Olivia 1:24:02

her hand there. She was on you like that knife game? Yeah, I have all my fingers. That's what she was doing. But like that's not what I was doing. She thought I was playing the knife game but I was like my hand wasn't there. I was just

1:24:16

as you were playing the knife game. Why would she put her hand there doesn't make any sense. Doesn't make any sense. You shouldn't have gotten in trouble.

Olivia 1:24:23

Under the guidance outside they have these eggs like these plastic eggs like this and then you would like freeze your negative experience or emotion into it and close it and then you put it in the teachers lounge freezer. I have like 11 Eggs

1:24:42

Yeah, yeah.

Olivia 1:24:45

The first time I've touched a plastic egg since elementary school. I when I had them there but like, I just got them back. I just felt comfortable enough to get

1:24:54

rid of plastic and related trauma is

Olivia 1:24:56

fucking guidance counselor fucking Mrs. Johnson. anyways, school

1:25:00

guidance counselors, full of puppets

Olivia 1:25:03

from floor to ceiling, and I thought I was being sent to Hell every time I would go there, which was often because it was just like, dusty. And then like, hundreds of eyes were staring at you from all her puppets. And she would like talk to you through the puppet.

1:25:16

That's horrifying. That's so fucking scary.

Olivia 1:25:22

And I was always there because sometimes. Anyways, that does sound like hell. Yes. So you feel like lead. Ease and lesbian spaces are where a place where you can unmask and you feel really comfortable and yeah, like this

1:25:43

no makeup on.

1:25:46

It's okay. We're good. You didn't miss it.

Olivia 1:25:48

Like a hand spot in the middle my forehead? No. Okay. Do you ever struggle like, like, engaging with lesbian community because of like being, like having a major depressive disorder?

1:26:01

Ah, yeah. I mean,

1:26:05

Ariel and I live in Crown Heights. Which is it's a lovely place. Um, it's great. It's a little bit far from gingers. Yeah, it's a little bit far from genders. And it's really far from anything in Bushwick, which is, you know, where a lot of trans lesbian stuff happens. So I have a lot of low energy days, where it's tough to, it's tough to get up, it's tough to do anything. And, you know, it's, it's hard to, you know, go out, it's very draining, because I know, I'm gonna have to go out and then I'm gonna have to use energy for the commute as well as you know, hanging out. And that's tough. So it does make it really hard to makes it really hard to engage with those spaces, sometimes area that are potentially going to move to Bushwick to make that easier. But yeah, a lot of these spaces have to be sought out for us. And that, that act of seeking them out. It's tough.

Olivia 1:27:26

So can you talk about making lesbian friends and meeting other lesbians in New York City? And what that's like, oh,

1:27:37

yeah, it's been. It's been awesome. Because, I mean, it's kind of one of the main reasons I want to be so openly trans is because if you are trans trans people approach you, and you can approach trans people.

1:27:57

It's great. You can kind of just kind of just go to people and go, like, hey, like, I like your outfit. And that's like, that's like the sign God, I dropped my fucking Starburst.

Olivia 1:28:14

You're also hot. And so you have that thing where you can just say, easy lines like that. And people just want to be your friend.

1:28:21

You know, I won't deny it. It's worked. It's worked well in the past. That's

1:28:26

not how it works for most of us.

1:28:27

I have I have leveraged that in the past for me, most of us for real history.

Olivia 1:28:39

But yeah, I was just so like, you find it easy. You walk up to lesbians, you talk about their outfit, and then especially like meeting other trans people.

1:28:46

Exactly. Like being

1:28:52

clock bubbly, trans. makes other trans people want to talk to me, just trans people love me and other trans people.

1:29:03

It's a great experience. What I'm really enjoying currently is I met this girl Rhiannon. Which is fun, because that's my middle name. I met this girl Rihanna at gingers.

Olivia 1:29:18

Does she have blonde hair? Like down to here? No. Okay, different trans trans femme rienne. I was like, I know someone who goes to gingers. Does. She in the derby team? Does she do derby?

1:29:32

I don't think so. She looks like she does.

1:29:34

She might Okay then I might okay continue.

1:29:38

But Rihanna is great. invited me to this Discord server of trans femmes and NYC. Most of those bitches are lesbians. Some of so it's awesome just having like one more level with which to connect with trans people and also because it transness and lesbianism just go together very, very nicely. It's

1:30:06

such a, it allows for so many more ways to define your own womanhood. So many more ways to engage with your own gender. And it's great. It's great. I love lesbians. I love trans lesbians.

1:30:30

Can you talk

Olivia 1:30:32

about if you felt any isolation or disconnection from the broader queer community in any ways? So like, maybe spate like, spaces that are queer, but not lesbian spaces that are cysts and not trans.

1:30:50

Yeah, I I'm definitely interacted with places that are, you know, kind of not not as trans. Been in been in some, you know, gay bars that are mostly sis people. And it's not great. There's a certain amount of awareness of my own body that I feel like I have to have.

1:31:26

But that's the isolation. I've seen Oh, there was something else I was gonna say.

1:31:47

What was what was what did you say as

1:31:48

a follow up question,

Olivia 1:31:50

like to this question? Yeah,

1:31:52

you said something after it. And I'm blanking now, for some reasons,

Olivia 1:31:55

bases that are queer, but not lesbian spaces that are

Olivia 1:32:01

sis and not trans. I don't think I said anything after the specific question. Yeah. But, um,

1:32:11

yeah, there was,

1:32:12

I mean, isolation or disconnection for the broader community. Definitely. I definitely felt a lot of that, like before I was 21. Because there are so there are so few spaces that you can that you can go as like, you know, a 20 year old as someone who can't drink and I didn't have a fake ID. So I was sort of locked out of the queer community for a little while. Um, and that that was definitely it was definitely difficult. It was it was hard to find queer community than it was most of my queer community was online. But, you know, when I turned 21, I was able to seek out the spaces that I wanted. And you know, I'm very fortunate to live. When you we live in New York City, and I love it here. I intend to stay here. There's so many opportunities for queer space. Specifically to try to avoid that isolation. Um,

Olivia 1:33:22

can you talk about what your first visit was to a lesbian related place or event? Yeah,

1:33:29

I think it was. I think it was gingers was the first first lesbian bar that I'd ever been to. And I still haven't been to a lot of lesbian bars.

1:33:41

I still need to go to there's not that many. And Biden. I haven't been to that many. I've

1:33:47

only been to gingers, and I've only been a few times.

Olivia 1:33:50

Places. You have to I would say go to Henrietta's.

1:33:52

I've been meaning to go to him. Just a clear. I've been a copy. I don't know. Copy counted.

1:33:58

I don't count if a lot of people count copy.

1:34:02

I like Cubby, because they took my knife at the door. But the guy gave it back when I left. That's

1:34:06

nice. Didn't take it is small. It is very small. And music is

1:34:11

that the music's mediocre? Yeah, it's not great.

Olivia 1:34:16

Anyways, so what was it like when agenda is for the first time?

1:34:21

It was, I mean, it was great. It was it was kind of exactly what I expected. Because I went I went with Ariel. And I was like, Ariel, what

1:34:29

am I what am I expecting here and aerals, like dogs playing pool and there were dogs playing pool like shit.

1:34:36

I tell you what I was told.

1:34:38

That's that's exactly what I was told was gonna happen. I love bars with a little back garden. Because I like being able to step outside. So that was really nice. There was like a couple of dudes there. Which I was confused about, but it was still like a lesbian heavy space, like getting To see like, you know, older lesbians, older bunches, just hanging out drinking beers.

1:35:08

No, you're so right. You're so right, they're hot.

1:35:14

And it was just, it was just nice. My first time in any queer space is a little bit tough because, you know, my, my brain starts screaming not

1:35:24

clear enough not clear enough

1:35:27

at me mainly, like I feel my first time in like a like a trans space, which was, you know, the Metropolitan for gender experts, which is like a, like an open mic. I remember feeling very overwhelmingly not trans enough, which makes no fucking sense.

1:35:48

But, you know, I still felt it.

1:35:52

And it was tough to get past but it's I sort of got used to genders very quickly. genders is very like comfortable space. Because it didn't really feel like it asked anything of me there was nothing that I really had to do

1:36:15

be hot play pool

1:36:16

you have play pool, that's all i That's all I wanted to do. And that's all I that's all I had to do. I like bars where you can do stuff.

1:36:25

A lot of times at bars I end up like, just kind of sitting

Olivia 1:36:27

there you know, I like talking shit at bars and people watching.

1:36:31

I love people watching. Talking shit is so much fun. But sometimes I just need to do something my hands

1:36:42

no finish what you're gonna say. That was it was gonna be funny. I can tell

Olivia 1:36:48

what does identify as a lesbian means my business makes sense for you. But I just like playing with my hands at a tape bar. Okay. We get it. We all y'all are the same. And I bet you do. I bet you do.

1:37:19

Now that's really that's what lesbianism means to me fucking fingers stimulation.

1:37:24

You just like, I just have a real fixation. I just like putting things in my mouth. I just like play with my hands. I'm like,

1:37:33

I don't even do that.

1:37:34

Oh. The other one.

1:37:38

Just the other one. And other people.

1:37:43

Anyway, identifying. It's the

1:37:50

it's the community identifying as a lesbian as a community. It feels identifying as a lesbian feels like a desire to reach the goal. Like what I feel is like the goal to me of like queerness like we were talking about, I don't remember if we were recording or not, but like, like I was talking about queerness as a deconstruction of like labels deconstructing of like the categorization system that says editor heteronormativity of forces and it feels very much like lesbianism is a a holistic understanding of sex and love and gender as something that is wholesome and fulfilling. And it means everything and nothing at the same time. Like it means everything in that. It's you know, it's like sex and love and gender is like integral to what being a lesbian means to anybody. But at the same time, it's not questioned, like, hanging around like, the lesbians that I want to hang around. are the ones that just get it like like that you you just you hear the sentence. Yeah, this is my boyfriend. We're lesbians. Yes, like Yeah. Real.

1:39:55

And like, that's just how life goes.

1:39:57

Yeah. And Just lesbianism represents that goal of it not mattering. That goal of it mattering only enough to make us happy

Olivia 1:40:23

Can you talk about what lesbian spaces are communities that you wish existed?

1:40:29

Yeah, um I'd love more sober queer spaces. I'm not sober. I love substances.

1:40:41

I'm a substance fan.

1:40:44

But it was real tough for me to, you know, interact with queerness and lesbianism. As like before I was 21. That was that was real hard. So I think more sober queer spaces would allow people who don't want to use substances and people who are under 21 to explore queerness more. And beyond that, sometimes I don't want to go out late at night. Sometimes do

1:41:23

people who start their parties at 11pm insane tire

1:41:27

I'm fucking Evie, bro. Like I'm knocking out Yeah. It's like 11am is when I started.

Olivia 1:41:38

The lesbians to lsmw play party started at five ended at 10 five to 10

1:41:46

That sounds so nice. You get

1:41:48

there at five you leave at 10

1:41:52

Like a clear lunch awesome.

Olivia 1:41:54

It was amazing. There was there was a pre party there was a brunch. That's looking for awesome. And then the party was five to 10 That sounds awesome. Got to be home by like 1130 at the latest. Because people want to Henrietta's afterwards.

1:42:09

That's so cool. That's so cool. Five to 10 Like that's, that's awesome. Like sometimes I

1:42:16

was so happy because I wasn't even a little bit sleepy.

1:42:20

Exactly. Like you don't have to. Five to 10 you can just hang out

Olivia 1:42:24

people. Why do you start your shit at 11 and then people don't get there until two and as an end until six. What's wrong with low? That's some of us retrans event in Bushwick. COVID

1:42:35

I know they all start Yeah, it's like oh, like clown rave. Like it starts at 11 Like obviously a clown organized this shit like, let me sleep

Olivia 1:42:51

or the all night trans raves but start like 11 and end at 11 in the morning.

1:42:57

I don't have the energy for that I'm depressed ketamine.

1:43:00

That's all that's what they all do. Gotta be gay.

1:43:03

Isn't it a fucking downer?

1:43:06

I don't know if shit about that. It's all

1:43:08

horse tranquilizer. How does that know make you more tired?

1:43:12

I don't know shit about dick. I don't I don't worry about that.

Olivia 1:43:19

I'd say I don't know shit about ketamine. Neither.

Olivia 1:43:23

I just know they do it at these raves and I know what helps.

1:43:27

I don't I don't know how it helps though. Because it's a tranquilizer.

Olivia 1:43:30

Am I supposed to know do you think people would do

1:43:33

uppers when like when I get tired I like that's what poppers are for?

1:43:39

No they do okay

Olivia 1:43:47

so we want sober spaces and spaces that start before like time like events that start like before the witching hour or so for like midnight. Yeah, no, no start way before that. Sorry. Like seven eight.

1:43:59

Yeah, or sometimes you just have like, other shit to do at night and you just want like a gay brunch. Yeah. You want a gay brunch? Yeah.

1:44:11

Real that's what I want. Lunch. Like yeah, some like that. Just are like a like an event that's at like a brush like a brunch a brunch time. We need more of them.

Olivia 1:44:27

What does lesbian join mean to you?

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Lesbian joy

1:44:32

is a lesbian.

1:44:36

Not to be not to be fruity with it. But it's

1:44:41

a little late to say

1:44:44

is it too late to say No homo.

1:44:45

I said it all the time. It's never too late to say No homo.

1:44:50

It's honestly it's being being at home. My girlfriend under you're gonna make that face. I'm knew you were gonna make that face

1:45:03

it's it's just existing

1:45:08

in comfort as a lesbian, that's, that's lesbian joy. Because, you know, like I said, like being a lesbian is to live outside of categorization to live as you want. And only as you want to be able to be able to fully define your own existence. And lesbian joy to me is when I feel like I have that when I feel like I am the arbiter of who I am.

1:45:45

Thank you very much.

1:45:46

Thank you. Is

1:45:47

there anything else you want to talk about?

1:45:49

I don't think so. I think that was a solid

1:45:50

no 10 Cool.