

Desert Island Dildos Transcripts

EPISODE 4: ANDREENA – QUEER POETRY AND EVENTS

Quenby

Hello, and welcome to Desert Island Dildos, your friendly neighbourhood podcast about sex and sexuality. Joining me today is Andreena. Why don't you tell us a bit about yourself?

Andreena

Hi, thank you, thank you for inviting me to do this. My name is Andreena Leanne I'm an inspirational speaker, poet and author of a poetry book called Charred: A survivor speaks her truth to inspire. I also run an event called poetry LGBT, which is an open mic for the LGBT community to express themselves through poetry and creativity. I have another open mic night called adult survivors open mic, for adult survivors of abuse to share what they've been through, as well. And I deliver writing workshops, so it's all exciting stuff.

Quenby

That sounds really interesting. What do you want to talk about today?

Andreena

As the podcast is about, you know, sex and sexuality, I've written some poems about my partner in my book that I'd like to share. I'll let you know a little bit about Germaine, Germaine my partner she's umm, I wrote this poem about it whell is it about her? yeah it iss about her. It's called masculine woman. 'I am woman, she too is woman. I love my woman. She looks like a man wears men's clothes has a deep voice, often gets a rough time outside. "Excuse me, didn't you see this as the ladies loo?" "Yes I did", she replied, "I too am woman, small as they are, look at my tits. Now put that in your pipe and smoke it." And that was, that was just some issues that every time we go out I'm like her body guard whenever she needs to use a public toilet. And, yeah, we've had that issue like over and over and over, we've been together eight years, and that's just this recurring issue that keeps coming up. And I wrote that poem about that really.

Quenby

Yeah and I mean as a, as a trans person like that something, that I'm unfamiliar with, sort of, possibly coming at it from a slightly different angle, but it's something that's really big within the trans community as well, of just that policing of public space, and that idea of you have to look or act a certain way to be accepted within those spaces. So why poetry? what speaks to you about poetry? Why do you choose to explore these topics through that medium?

Andreena

I discovered poetry in February 2014, when my partner Jermaine basically got me into it, she's very much into writing poems and journaling and she finds writing really therapeutic for her and she's encouraged me all this time to write, and it's been really therapeutic for me like I write about all sorts of things that I've been through I write about my relationships, identity, homelessness, mental health, childhood sexual abuse. And I think if it wasn't for poetry I don't think I would have got to this point where I'm speaking openly about things that I've been through. Yeah, it's something that I've found that seems to be working for me in terms of like being able to express myself. I've always been creative you know I've been, I was always one of those children that will always make stuff out of toilet roll ends and cereal boxes, even with the cereal still in it. So I'm quite, I'm quite a creative person so when I discovered poetry, it felt quite natural to me. I did it, and I think it feels natural to me because I write in my own way, in a way that feels comfortable to me it's not like I don't follow any sort of specific form or anything like poetry doesn't always rhyme and stuff.

Quenby

Yeah

Andreena

And it's accessible my poetry is quite accessible to read on the theme of writing, I guess I should read my next poem.

Quenby

Yeah go for it

Andreena

This one's called just us, since we're talking about, you know, sex and sexuality and all that. This ones called just us 'When I breathe the air I breathe you breathe it with me and I beg you not to leave, it's just us. When after the rain comes a thunderstorm

it's not you it's me that keeps us safe and warm. Don't sound the alarm and pull the plug. Hold me close and give me a hug, is just us. Trust. This relationship could easily crumble into dust. Because we're existing without lust, it's been you and me for months, just us. I need you to believe in me and wait for me to deal with the things that are plaguing me. I need you to see that this is real, not our reality, not based on vanity, but based purely on love and loyalty. Just give me some time to bring back the sunshine in my smile, I promise you it will be worth your while.'

Quenby

That's really sweet. There's something I love about queer poetry is- because I think a lot of people have this perception of poetry being very rigid and structured and lots of rules and the very opaque and inaccessible and what I love about so much queer poetry is it is just so raw and personal. and it just, it cuts through all of that and just. I think it's such an important thing for our community because so many people within the LGBT community has been through a lot of trauma, through a lot of pain in their lives, and there's something about poetry which I feel just gives voice to that allows you to express it in a way that very few things do.

Andreena

Definitely I totally agree. And we have been through so much, you know, whether it be isolation or mental health or abandonment from rejection from our families, like, there is so much, And for me personally, I used to drink a lot, I used to go out partying and drinking and for me writing has helped. I still drink, I like a bit of alcohol every now and then. But for me, writing is something that isn't poisoning my body you know it isn't something that's harmful to me, It's a way that I can express myself, and I don't have to share it unless I want to, you know, it's really good, like most people that I come into contact with at poetry LGBT, the open mic night that I run, we write poetry in a way that feels comfortable to us that we don't follow any form and structure, I think, I don't know. It almost feels like we're quite radical like like we're not that bothered about the poetry scene sort of thing if you like, like how to do it properly we just write, because it helps us, it's helpful for us to process how we feel, with the challenges that we were going through and I've been really humbled to hear lots of people's poetry at poetry LGBT over the past six years, and connect with people because it's really important that we do share our stories, no matter how difficult it is to do that we should share our stories so that we can connect with each other and know that we're not alone in our struggles.

Quenby

Yeah, and like running events myself is, is something was so beautiful and it's, we have so few spaces where we can feel comfortable where we can express ourselves like that it's just when you create that space when you give that to people who otherwise don't have that, it's just incredible what comes pouring out of people. I'm

always amazed and renewed in my passion for running these events, because I just see people come out and just say things they've never said before, things that they never thought they could say, they'll say things and you'll see people in the audience just like, just be hit by it like a hammer in the chest and realise, oh, I'm feeling that too. I mean obviously there's space for lots of different events and like, I mean like peer support stuff and like more traditional, things like that are really important too but performance stuff can just pull, pull emotion out of people, which has been buried so deeply,

Andreena

Definitely I totally agree, Poetry LGBT and connecting with people on that space has it's really helped me a lot to process my stuff as well, hearing what other people have been through is just really, it's necessary. These spaces are needed, we need more of these spaces where we feel safe and comfortable to share what we've written, not even just like writing just spaces where we can express ourselves like through music. Music is another way a good way of expressing ourselves, and there's so much creativity within the LGBT community. There's so much, like, over the years I've seen so many people just unleashing their creativity and I'm just like, wow, like we're all so creative in our community. And I think it's really important because it's- We need to have an outlet for all of the struggles that we go through, we need that. Yeah, so it's brilliant. These spaces exist and we need more spaces like that.

Quenby

Yeah and that's that's something I've been feeling so much during lockdown is just feeling cut off from our spaces from that community. It's just this massive hole in like my social life and like my mental stability is just these spaces where like queer people used to be able to come together in a physical space. That- that loss is just so visceral. For me, it hits me right in the heart.

Andreena

Definitely. Zoom is great, like, I like zoom, I do. I've got my events on Zoom I've been able to connect with LGBT people all over the world that's brilliant. But there's nothing like the physical space, there's nothing like being connected with somebody and giving someone a hug and cheersing and laughing and seeing people's facial expressions and body expressions and just vibes in in a way with other people like you don't, you don't get that same connection online.

Quenby

Zoom is like a substitute and like I've- I run occasional events on Zoom and like I'm so grateful for people who run regular events from zoom as well and just, there is

definitely something missing from that. And also like these events pivoting to zoom has made them more accessible to some people, but other people, it's actually made from less accessible as well, because you know, not everyone is able to sort of connect or is able to process the event in the same way. I see a lot of people like saying, oh zoom makes everything so much more accessible, it's like "Mmmm?"

Andreena

It's alright if you've got good Wi Fi connection and you've got a laptop or a decent phone or mobile data, because everyone's experiencing this pandemic in a different way. And there's, I think sometimes we take for granted well I take for granted that I do have unlimited Wi Fi and a decent laptop and space to be able to be creative at home and stuff like that. That's not the same for everybody. So this next poem, I'm gonna read is called sex and love because I know you're gonna want to ask me about sex toys and all that so I think that this is a nice segue into that. 'The other day we spoke about sex and I got angry and said, I don't even want to talk about sex because if I start I'm gonna get vex. We communicate now and again by text, how is that the language of love when I asked you for a cuddle your head is in a muddle. My head is already at foreplay. At this stage, touch me tease me and lead me astray. She said I'm sorry, okay I didn't know you felt this way. That very moment the Convo turn from no sex vex to steamy rough sex shut the bedroom door. Our clothes torn off in a mess on the floor. Kissing biting touching caressing grabbing sucking licking. Before we knew it the toys came out, we were screaming heavy breathing moaning and groaning. Sounded like we had started a war in that bedroom. I didn't want to come anytime before noon. That very day I wanted us to stay in that bedroom forever and bond. Bond, light blue consummate our relationship and so we both knew that we are like finger and glove. We are very much in love.'

Quenby

I really love that. I think it just captures so much of just, there's so much, viscosity in it but also just it speaks to like that intimacy the underlying- the love and the romance going on underneath as well. So thank you for sharing that.

Andreena

Thank you.

Quenby

Thank you for joining us Andreena before you go I'm going to ask you the question I asked every guest, if you were on a desert island with steady supply of electricity, lube and condoms, something to keep the sand out of the lubes and condoms, what sex toy would you like to be stuck there with?

Andreena

Oh, it has to be this it has to be my clit stimulator, like, Oh, I love this. I don't know if you can hear it, I'll just turn it on but it's vibrate and hang on. Can you hear that pulsating? *buzzing noise* I love this. This is my clitoral stimulator,

Quenby

I mean you can't, you can't see it but it does look somewhere between like a high tech mouse, as in the computer kind not like the fluffy kind. Or possibly like some, some kind of like sci fi weapon, like it looks like you might point to some click it is very, very sleek,

Andreena

It is, it's very sleek, it feels quite soft, it's quite soft to touch. And it's not battery powered I have to plug it in. So like those two little dots in the end, next to the plug and you plug it in so it's quiet, and it's waterproof. There's so much I like about this. So, other than bringing Germaine with me to this desert island, I would bring these clit stimulator

Quenby

Tell us where you can, where we can find you.

Andreena

Thank you Quenby this has been brilliant, a lovely conversation filled with poetry and vibration. You can find me on Instagram @survivor.andreena.leeanne, you can follow poetry LGBT @PoetryLGBT on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, and my other open mic, adult survivors open mic is @adultsurvivorsopenmic on Instagram. Thank you so much. And "Charred: A survivor speaks her truth to inspire" is available on Amazon, Etsy Waterstones, foils, everywhere

Quenby

I've read it myself. It's good book, you should definitely check it out. And yes, We do try to bring good vibes to this podcast.

Andreena

Oh I see what you did there.

Quenby

I'm not even sorry. I'm Quenby you can find me @quenbycreatives, on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and you can follow us at @DIDildos on Twitter. Thank you again for joining us Andreena, and I'll see you all next week, stay safe.

