Interview with Kieran Gowan Clark

*N.B: As Kieran Gowan Clarke is a friend of mine, the main bulk of the conversation regarding the interview was largely done through word of mouth.*

Interview Questions:



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Draft:

1.Why did you decide to look into alternative gay styles?

*I decided to look into alternative gay styles due tot he recent uprising*

*of gay tribes upon gay dating apps. Gay times refer to the select*

*category that Grindr says everyone should fit into. Not everyone fits*

*these tribes though, so why should we categorise ourselves within a*

*community that has already been so alienated for such a long time? Upon*

*Grindr there is no option for those that may class themselves as*

*alternative. Alternative meaning anyone that does not fit the selected*

*tribes. My reasoning for looking into alternative styles is as I myself*

*have experienced a lot of people telling me that I am alternative and “Do*

*no fit into the community”. For someone that I don’t even know tell me*

*that I do not fit into my own community lead me onto looking as to why I*

*may not fit in.*

2. What are your views on the various subcultures of the LGBTQ+

community?

*I feel that many people outside of the community do not understand*

*all of the different letters that have been added to the usual*

*‘LGBT’ but I feel that this is very important as it is including*

*anyone that may not necessarily fit that criteria. For example,*

*involving people who may be Pansexual or Asexual is very important*

*as it allows for them to have somewhere safe to go and somewhere*

*to maybe meet other people who are like themselves.*

3. Do you feel that the LGBTQ+ community is becoming too

mainstream?

*I wouldn’t say so much mainstream, just more accepted. The only*

*thing that is coming mainstream is sayings that gay people might*

*have been saying for years, for example, the term ‘hot mess’*

*refers to someone who is beyond help. Recently this term has been*

*adopted by celebrities such as Kim Kardashian etc and then made*

*its way into the vocabulary of straight girls. This phrase*

*originates from the voguing scene of the 1970’s in New York.*

4. You mentioned in your exhibition that 'tribes' are flourishing

on dating apps. Do you feel that this is a positive or a negative?

*I feel that this is very negative on the community as we are*

*segregating people more than necessary which is leading to a very*

*bitchy atmosphere when it comes to going to the gay bars, a space*

*where you’re meant to feel like you can be yourself.*

5. RuPaul recently stated that he would not let a trans woman ontohis show; RuPaul's Drag Race. What's your view on the topic?

*I feel that this statement from RuPaul was out of order*

*completely. For him to state that someone who is trans can not*

*compete on the show is absolutely ridiculous. ONE OF THE MAIN*

*PEOPLE BEHIND THE STONEWALL MOVEMENT WAS A TRANS PERSON! (Marsha*

*P.Davis) If it was not for a trans person being the pinnacle of*

*the stonewall movement, the gay rights act would not have passed*

*in the late 60’s!*

6. Do you feel that as you have aged, your views on subjects

within the LGBTQ+ community have changed?

*When I was much younger, 16, and I had just come out, I was very*

*naive when it came to the whole community. For example, like most*

*young gays (that I know anyway), I thought I was the bee’s knees.*

*Everyone wanted Kieran, everyone look at me, laugh with me. But as*

*I’ve grown up, I have noticed the community shouldn’t be all about*

*yourself, it should be about involving everyone that is like you*

*and that everyone should get along (not always the case, but you*

*know). It is hard to actually pin point at what time I realised*

*that the community wasn’t actually as close knit as what it should*

*actually be. I think in recent years, since moving to Manchester*

*where the gay scene is so big, I have realised that maybe the*

*community could do with a bit of a shake up.*

7. How would you identify yourself?

*I myself identify as male, but I always like to experimenting with*

*different ways of dressing. I would not so know to wearing*

*clothing that is a little more feminine, I would not say no to*

*wearing something that is hyper masculine. I’m open to*

*interpretation. I’m just very free.*

Notes From the Editor:

(no electronic notes, but during a quick meeting, the Editor (Billy) showed me the changes he suggest I made).

Correspondace:

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Final Interview:

Let’s Get Bashing Tribes with Questions

by Cheska Hardie

27/03/2018

Riding high from his ‘Alienation: Alternative Gay Styles’ exhibition, Kieran Gowan Clarke sits down to tell us his views on his exhibition, gay tribes and dating apps.

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*Instagram: @* [*kierangowan*](https://www.instagram.com/kierangowan/)