

Ira ([00:04](#)):

Hey everybody. I'm Ireland. I'm the producer of Gender Spiral. Thanks for being here, everyone. For our launch party live show event.

([00:21](#)):

Let's go ahead and welcome the host of Gender Spiral, Babette Thomas and Ally Beardsley.

Ally ([00:38](#)):

Hello everybody.

Babette ([00:39](#)):

Hi everyone.

Ally ([00:40](#)):

Hi everybody. How are you doing tonight?

Babette ([00:45](#)):

What a beautiful crowd.

Ally ([00:45](#)):

Oh my God.

Babette ([00:45](#)):

Oh my God.

Ally ([00:49](#)):

Can we get the house lights up? Awesome. How many people have listened to the first episode? Oh my God. Awesome.

Babette ([00:59](#)):

Hell yeah.

Ally ([01:00](#)):

The rest of you, honestly on the ride home. Give it a listen. I'm Ally.

Babette ([01:09](#)):

I'm Babette.

Ally ([01:11](#)):

Tonight. Yeah, we are being...

Babette ([01:14](#)):

...we sponsored by Waystar Royco.

Ally ([01:14](#)):

We are sponsored by Waystar Royco. Let's just get into Pride honestly.

Babette ([01:19](#)):

No, let's do it. I...

Ally ([01:22](#)):

You love it.

Babette ([01:23](#)):

I don't revealing of... Amazing feelings about Pride. I feel like I just have somewhat complicated feelings about...

Ally ([01:27](#)):

Okay. I have complicated feelings as well. When I'm brushing my teeth, I don't need to look down at the Colgate toothpaste and it be Rainbow.

Babette ([01:36](#)):

No, exactly.

Ally ([01:38](#)):

I don't need T-Mobile to be an ally.

([01:43](#)):

It's hard for me. When it's like Pride LGBTQIA+ and I'm like, yes, but why June? Why in June? I feel like we kind of felt this because we released our first episode in June and then we were like, oh, it's Pride Month. That's the queer experience is being like, wait, it's Pride month.

Babette ([02:07](#)):

Exactly. One of a million podcasts to come out in June.

Ally ([02:10](#)):

Yes. We're all in good company. We're all making podcasts for Pride. I feel like for me the secret is the more specific you can get with a Pride party the more I'm going to enjoy it.

Babette ([02:25](#)):

Exactly. I feel like when I was younger, when I was in high school, I grew up in the Bay Area. I would go to Capital P Pride Parade. I would go to Capital P Pride.

([02:35](#)):

I am no longer doing that. I am too tired.

Ally ([02:38](#)):

You're not on a float with the straight mayor.

Babette ([02:42](#)):

Exactly. Wait, I think we actually have a picture of me in Pride.

Ally ([02:46](#)):

Do we?

Babette ([02:46](#)):

At Pride. That's me in high school.

Ally ([02:48](#)):

You're so cute.

Babette ([02:48](#)):

I feel like this picture is screaming "I went to private school. Please help me". That's what it's giving. Who are these two white girls on either side?

Ally ([03:01](#)):

Is this a Burger King supports Pride Month?

Babette ([03:05](#)):

Yeah, absolutely.

Ally ([03:05](#)):

Oh my God.

Babette ([03:09](#)):

Absolutely. Yeah, so some of you I'm not okay...

Ally ([03:18](#)):

But also what's up?

Babette ([03:19](#)):

Like you were saying, I'm not going to Capital P pride necessarily, but more so tailored events with I feel like intention and specificity and I feel like that's the perfect summary of this show, which is like I'm not necessarily organizing with all queer people. Some white gay bitches are very dumb. Some of them are very dumb. I'm not organizing with you, and so I feel like this show, it's like yes, everyone like queer, like gender variant folks, but it's also like we want to talk to really smart and amazing people and create a space to think about gender in these really nuanced ways with a lot of care and specificity, and I think that's what we're trying to do today at this show too.

Ally ([04:02](#)):

Amen. Yes. Thank you.

([04:07](#)):

Yes. I feel like when I go to a party. If they were like, this is all the non... You're essentially at a non-binary summit. I don't know if you guys know that. Tonight we have a very beautiful inaugural non-binary summit with our guests. Especially, but yeah, I feel like we made this podcast out of being like, we just want to be even more specific. We want to get so granular that a lot of people don't need to listen to it.

Babette ([04:45](#)):

Exactly. No...

Ally ([04:47](#)):

Time will tell. They will loop back.

Babette ([04:49](#)):

Exactly. I think in creating this show, we flop between is this for everyone? Is this going to be accessible or is this for a very specific group of people? People like our friends who want to listen to this.

Ally ([05:04](#)):

Exactly. Yeah. It feels very nice to not have to translate every single thing that you're saying. I think that that's super important, but I also think if someone stumbles upon this podcast in 2030, they're going to be like, yes, this is the norm. We're out here being like, we're so experimental.

Babette ([05:26](#)):

The new vanguard.

Ally ([05:30](#)):

Thank you all for coming to the show.

Babette ([05:32](#)):

Thank you so much.

Ally ([05:35](#)):

Kind of crazy to have a live taping after one episode is out. I'm like pretty bold. That's what you do at the end of season two. But we're not doing a whole tour. It's just LA.

Babette ([05:47](#)):

Exactly. For now.

Ally ([05:49](#)):

For now, honestly, next up Paris, France. Being in LA, I think you all will be elated to hear our guests tonight. Two absolute sweetheart powerhouses in the, say it with Me, industry.

Babette ([06:07](#)):

Oh, in the industry. Yes, exactly.

Ally ([06:11](#)):

In the industry. Please put your hands together for E.R Fightmaster and Naomi McPherson.

E.R. ([06:18](#)):

Hello, everybody.

Babette ([06:18](#)):

How are you? You both look great.

Naomi ([06:36](#)):

Thank you. Peace be with you.

Babette ([06:37](#)):

Yeah, and with your spirit.

Ally ([06:40](#)):

Yeah, and with your spirit. Exactly. And with your two spirits. Yep. Welcome to the show. How are you?

Naomi ([06:47](#)):

Good. We were just chatting backstage. We almost didn't make that.

Ally ([06:53](#)):

I thought about that. I honestly said, your names two times louder than I normally would because that was for you.

E.R. ([07:03](#)):

Yeah. Thank God you did. Thank you. Yeah. I heard the start of my name and spit a mint across the room.

Ally ([07:10](#)):

You could have come out with the mink.

E.R. ([07:11](#)):

We were all enjoying those bits.

Ally ([07:13](#)):

We were really just haling mints in the bag. Sometimes when I'm at a concert, I'm like, what is the green room? Is it all like edamame? No, it's all icebreakers. Icebreakers, and everyone's just housing them.

E.R. ([07:26](#)):

We're also sponsored by icebreakers.

Ally ([07:27](#)):

We're also sponsored by icebreakers.

E.R. ([07:30](#)):

Okay. I feel like I have a question for you all. I am the outsider here. I'm not from LA. You guys all live in LA, right?

Ally ([07:40](#)):

It's true.

E.R. ([07:41](#)):

It's true. I feel like there's this thing here. I can almost taste it in the air. I don't don't know who runs it. I don't know who's in charge of it, but this thing called the industry, right. That's like an outsider looking in. I grew up coming to Ellen a lot.

Ally ([07:58](#)):

...runs it.

E.R. ([07:59](#)):

Yeah, exactly. Ellen...

Ally ([08:01](#)):

Ellen De DeGeneres runs it.

E.R. ([08:02](#)):

No, exactly, and I guess I'm just, I feel like something that I see with some of my trans friends who are musical artists specifically is that trans artists are specifically made to be put in these really rigid boxes of you're either a pop star or a dance music artist or something like that. I'm just kind of curious in general, maybe I'll start with you, Ally. What does it mean to fully embody your queerness and transness as a person in the industry, and would you consider yourself in the industry?

Ally ([08:38](#)):

Absolutely not.

([08:41](#)):

I will say when I first moved here, I was immediately put in bright red lipstick at a T-Mobile commercial. Which paid my rent for a long time. If someone had showed up to my house and house and been like,

can I put this lipstick on you again for the same amount of money? I would've been like, yes, I'll wear this every day. Yes. I do feel like for me personally, I was shielded from a little bit of that by being on a weird YouTube channel and calling that the industry is hard for me, but I do feel like I transitioned extremely publicly, if that makes sense. Each little thing, I was like, maybe I want to try this out, and then that's all on YouTube. Every little choice was like, maybe I wear this now, and then it's like, oh, okay. I feel very archived in that way.

(09:41):

This actually kind of goes back to earlier we were talking about pride and how we were kind of annoyed, annoyed by pride, which is not okay to say, but it's a safe space right? Okay, great. Okay, good. Sometimes with Pride, when it's just LGBTQIA+, I feel very flattened. I feel very two-dimensional stick Stanley vibes, and I feel that way sometimes with the industry too. It's kind of like it needs to be like you check one box and then if that's all that you do, you dare do anything else.

E.R. (10:19):

Absolutely.

Ally (10:20):

What about you guys?

Naomi (10:23):

With regards to being in the industry?

Ally (10:25):

I guess? Okay, so there are a lot of terms that need to be defined here. Do you feel like you interact with the industry?

Naomi (10:32):

Somewhat. I definitely agree with what you're saying of feeling deeply archived and I wish so much that wasn't the case.

Ally (10:44):

Yeah, like you could just scrub some of that.

Naomi (10:47):

Oh yeah, baby. Some photo shoots need to disappear. Maybe if I was more in the industry, I would have the power to make them disappear.

Ally (10:54):

Oh, yeah. That's like a thing you could pay for. It's like delete fedora or whatever.

Naomi (11:00):

Thank God that didn't exist. Thank God.

Ally ([11:03](#)):

Oh, you didn't...

Naomi ([11:03](#)):

I made it out unscathed. I'm unscathed from that era, thank God. Or at least photographed.

Ally ([11:12](#)):

Yeah, great. Yeah, secret fedora.

Naomi ([11:13](#)):

Which is cool, and I also agree with what you're saying in terms of feeling flattened into two-dimensional sort of just like, I don't know, objects for people to consume. That can be kind of a depressing aspect of pride in general. In music, it's so strange. People, you'll be put into a playlist of queer music and it's like, well, what the fuck does that even mean?

([11:43](#)):

You know what mean? Queer people... All people of any marginalized identity get grouped together, and it's like everything is so disparate within those sorts of sub categories of what kind of people you can be. That can be a bit bizarre to navigate at times. I don't know. I'm feeling a little more grateful for Pride in these times, so fucking depressing out there.

Ally ([12:14](#)):

I love that.

Naomi ([12:16](#)):

Sometimes you get put into community with people that you might not want to be in community with. You might not want to claim some of the people that you group together with, but yeah.

Ally ([12:28](#)):

I love that. I do. It is. I like that you brought that up. It is an especially hard time. There's 400 anti-gay queer bills currently. That's real. Maybe Pride can just be fun. Maybe I can drink an absolute vodka because the people don't get healthcare.

([12:47](#)):

It's like, okay.

Naomi ([12:47](#)):

You deserve it.

Ally ([12:52](#)):

You made me experience gratitude in a way you gave me. Yeah. That was beautiful. Thank you, Naomi.

Naomi ([13:00](#)):



I'm glad. No problem.

Babette ([13:02](#)):

I feel like that's why one of our friends of the show Tuck Woodstock, who does the gender reveal podcast. For Trans Day of Visibility, they do trans day of just trans people getting a snack, and I love that. I just think, yeah, we do deserve a little treat in whatever form. I just want a little treat. I mean, no, I want reparations, but in the meantime, I'll take a little tree.

([13:25](#)):

Gifts. Gifts will suffice.

([13:28](#)):

And that's what pride really should be about, right? It's like sex workers of color. That was the first Pride, right?. It's like none of this, these companies are never going to see us. But yeah, I guess it's kind of like I'll take what I can get right now.

Ally ([13:42](#)):

Totally. Absolutely. Yeah. We talked to Tuck specifically about that, and I thought that was really beautiful.

Babette ([13:49](#)):

Yes. Such a good interview.

Ally ([13:51](#)):

What about you over here? Do you feel like you interact with the industry?

E.R. ([13:56](#)):

I do interact with the industry. No, I think it's what you're talking about with every part of your journey being very public. I think that is true for me too. I have been archived every step of the way, and what I have found is that there's this thing where they really need you to know exactly who you are. So every step of the way that I thought, I knew who I was, I had to be so firm about it because marginalized identities, you have to be like, I am the lesbian. I am the dyke. I am a little bit more mass than I thought. I am not binary, but not trans. I'm trans.

([14:41](#)):

And that reads to a lot of people outside of queerness as indecisive. But really it's like, no, you are. I'm giving you this gift. It's this humiliating, scary gift of showing you my growth and this beautiful journey that I'm on in the hopes that you will be able to know that every step of your journey is okay. There's something really radical about that. The other part of that radical act is that we still live inside of capitalism, and so they still want to monetize your radicalism. They see like, oh. Well, this artist has archived themselves every step of the way so that they can help other queers archive. How do we monetize that? And then they give you all these eyes, and then your audience becomes massive in a way that you didn't expect. Then you have to cut out parts of your authentic identity and keep them super private because an audience that is that large is not safe. Now I'm online and I started my career in

comedy, and I don't want to be funny online anymore because I have way too big of an audience, and everything I say is scrutinized.

([16:01](#)):

In this act of authenticity, I'm inherently not authentic anymore, but I'm trying to give them my most vulnerable self while keeping myself safe. It's like this constant contradiction.

Ally ([16:13](#)):

It's like if Biden tweeted like a joke, it'd be like...

Babette ([16:16](#)):

That's all Biden tweets.

Ally ([16:19](#)):

That's true. True.

Babette ([16:20](#)):

Check out my dog.

([16:21](#)):

You little queers like this bark bark.

Ally ([16:33](#)):

Now this is making me think. I feel like if we all feel very archived at each step of the way, it's kind of nice. Then it's just living there in perpetuity, and someone at that step can see that and then can scrub ahead and be like, oh, this is where you're at now. It's almost like a cooking tutorial. We're kind of the Alice Roman of gender is what I'm saying.

Babette ([17:03](#)):

I hate Allison Roman. I'm sorry. Absolutely not. I like Kia Damon. She's a cool cook. We'll go for Kia.

Ally ([17:11](#)):

Not Allison? Are you sure?

Babette ([17:12](#)):

The shallow...

Ally ([17:13](#)):

I'm kidding. I'm joking. I watched the Ziwe interview. Maybe it's kind of nice. It feels a little sacrificial in a way that I didn't think I was signing up for. I was just like, I'm actually just going to have a little bit shorter hair now.

([17:31](#)):

I do think that's kind of beautiful.

Babette ([17:33](#)):

Yeah. I feel like that's the entire basically thesis of this show, which is that none of this is linear. We're always going in circles. Even the first episode we recorded a few months ago, and I was on tea and I'm not on tea anymore. Hearing that was kind of crazy where it's like, oh, here I am. It doesn't mean that I backtracked in any way, but it's just part of the journey, so Totally. I think it's...

Ally ([17:54](#)):

You said something that I loved, which I think is in episode two, so spoiler alert, but you were like, I've been non-binary for five years. I have nothing to show for it.

Babette ([18:05](#)):

I have nothing to show for it.

Ally ([18:08](#)):

I love that.

Babette ([18:09](#)):

I have nothing to show for it. My gender is tired.

([18:13](#)):

It's weary. It's jaded. There's nothing.

Ally ([18:18](#)):

Yes. I really love that, because people really need receipts and they're just kind of like, you got top surgery or not, and you're like, where did you come from?

Babette ([18:27](#)):

No, exactly. But then you kind of internalize those pressures within yourself as well, where it's like, well, what am I not doing? Why? It's like, no, there's nothing wrong with just being where you're at and being right here and being present.

Naomi ([18:39](#)):

That's one of the traps of representation though, is when you are, you become a representative for your community and people can see themselves in you. Then they might look at you and be like, I see myself in you. You are my shape. You have my hair. Then if you decide that you want to express yourself differently and you're like, okay, well, I'm going to cut my hair. I'm going to change my shape. They're like, you fucking traitor.

Ally ([19:02](#)):

You're like, I would never do that.

Naomi ([19:03](#)):

Yeah, I wouldn't do that. And so you shouldn't either. You've lost the cause. No, I just wanted to trim.

Babette ([19:13](#)):

I had some split ends.

Naomi ([19:15](#)):

It's hot out.

Ally ([19:16](#)):

You're like, we had some split ends.

Naomi ([19:20](#)):

Right.

Ally ([19:20](#)):

I feel like we absolutely jumped the ship on this. I'm so sorry. I forgot that this was literally being recorded. Would you guys please introduce yourself in any way that you feel comfortable? So pronouns what you're into.

Naomi ([19:39](#)):

I'm into.

E.R. ([19:39](#)):

It's a little late.

Ally ([19:42](#)):

Let's kick this off, shall we? Run it back.

Naomi ([19:47](#)):

Redo the entrance.

Ally ([19:48](#)):

Yeah. Great. You guys can pop back. Throw mint in your mouth.

Naomi ([19:55](#)):

I'm Naomi. I use they them pronouns. What am I into? I really like the brand of snacks that you can get called Spudz.

Ally ([20:11](#)):

What?

Naomi ([20:11](#)):

You've heard of it. I'm vegan. And these are really good cheesy snack that you can get. So that's what I'm into. That's a hot tip.

Ally ([20:18](#)):

Spudz, where do you buy this?

Naomi ([20:20](#)):

Whole Foods?

Ally ([20:21](#)):

Wow. Okay.

Naomi ([20:23](#)):

You buy it.

Ally ([20:24](#)):

You're like, this tote was full when I walked in.

Naomi ([20:31](#)):

Right? No, they shut that down. It's so sad.

Ally ([20:35](#)):

The hot bar where you just eat it at the hot bar?

Naomi ([20:39](#)):

No.

Babette ([20:39](#)):

They shut down stealing.

Naomi ([20:42](#)):

The tote situation. I think the spot got blown up. They're always pretty intense. You get banned, I think if they catch you.

Ally ([20:49](#)):

Yeah. And there's 1 million Whole Foods. I know. It's owned by Amazon now. I'll just go across the street.

([20:56](#)):

What about you? What are you into?

E.R. ([21:03](#)):

My name is E.R. I use they them pronouns, and right now I'm really into oral I guess. Oral is Evergreen.

Ally ([21:19](#)):

Oh my God, we love, okay, great. Yeah. Not Is that at Whole Foods?

E.R. ([21:28](#)):

It's actually at Erwan.

Ally ([21:28](#)):

It's at Erwan. Yeah. It's only at Erwan.

Babette ([21:32](#)):

Super expensive.

Ally ([21:33](#)):

Yeah, it's crazy expensive there. We were joking earlier while you guys were back there just downing mints that this is a non-binary summit and that everyone came to it.

Naomi ([21:48](#)):

Have you ever seen four non-binary people on a stage?

Babette ([21:52](#)):

Think about that.

Ally ([21:53](#)):

Are there four Mae Martins.

Babette ([21:55](#)):

And not one mullet in sight.

Ally ([21:57](#)):

And not...

Babette ([21:59](#)):

Can you believe. No shades at all, it's just a peculiar thing for four non-binary people to...

Ally ([22:11](#)):

We're all just not in our mullet phase. We're waning and we're all waxing.

Babette ([22:15](#)):

Right.

Ally ([22:18](#)):

Let's start the interview. We got about 15 more minutes in here, right?

Babette ([22:23](#)):

I feel like we start every show with kind of going back to the center of the spiral, which is like, it's inherently a show about the inner child, and we were just talking about the industry. I think the closest place I've ever been to the industry is in my imagination, in my mind.

Ally ([22:43](#)):

You need to use that better.

Babette ([22:47](#)):

When I was a kid, I feel like I wanted to be a pop star or musical performer, so fucking bad, so bad Second grade, and it was just whatever I was consuming. Second grade, I was like, I want to be in the Cheetah Girls. And then in fifth grade it was like, I'm part of Fallout Boy. I am the black Pete.

Ally ([23:08](#)):

Wait, you played violin right?

Babette ([23:09](#)):

Yes.

Ally ([23:11](#)):

You could have been in the, what's that one? Electric violin band?

Babette ([23:13](#)):

I don't know. There's a couple.

Ally ([23:15](#)):

Yellow card.

Babette ([23:17](#)):

There's a couple. No, I mean, I've always been interested in music, but I also feel like there's a way that feminine people get pushed out of being serious about music when they're younger. But basically all of this I'm trying to say is that I think there's this real relationship between music and gender and the content you're consuming one year as Cheetah Girls, one year as Pete Wentz, and those were the things that brought me gender euphoria as a kid. I guess I'm just curious for both of you, could you take us through your gender journey as you've come to understand it now, but I'm also specifically interested in what kind of things felt euphoric for you as a kid, or even now?

([23:59](#)):

For me, again, it was the Cheetah Girls Pete Wentz combination. What did it for me, that is non-binary. No, exactly. That's it's.

E.R. ([24:12](#)):

That's an interesting question. I think when I look back on my childhood, and I feel very lucky for this, but I feel like I didn't really have a perception of myself as a gendered being until I probably turned 12. I just felt like a kid, and that is so good.

Ally ([24:34](#)):

Beautiful. That is the future.

E.R. ([24:37](#)):

Yes. I guess what you would traditionally ascribe to be a tomboy, a very stereotypical...

Ally ([24:42](#)):

We've heard that a word in almost every single episode. [inaudible 00:24:47].

E.R. ([24:47](#)):

If you're born in the nineties, you still got called that. I don't know. I felt like pretty, I feel like my whole life has been attempting to get back to that place after having strayed from the path. Yes. That sense.

Babette ([25:09](#)):

So neither cheetah girls nor Pete Wentz for you.

E.R. ([25:11](#)):

I did love Pete Wentz, but that came... I loved all that stuff. I grew up in a very musical family. Pretty much everyone in my family is a jazz musician or a music teacher or something. Which is wild. It kind of makes you not want to be a musician.

Babette ([25:34](#)):

Totally. That makes sense.

Ally ([25:35](#)):

Like I saw what you did there with that, and it wasn't with your ring finger on the face.

E.R. ([25:40](#)):

Or it's what's expected.

Ally ([25:41](#)):

Nobody wants to do that. Right?

E.R. ([25:43](#)):

It doesn't seem like you can sustain the life doing this.

Babette ([25:48](#)):

You say you bitches are broke.



[\(25:48\)](#):

No shade. I love my family.

Ally [\(25:48\)](#):

I feel like I...

E.R. [\(25:57\)](#):

It's a hard lifestyle. Especially, I don't know. Yeah. Jazz was like, yeah.

Babette [\(26:02\)](#):

Did you grow up playing jazz?

E.R. [\(26:04\)](#):

No. I grew up playing... I was classically trained in piano, but then I quit that when I was 12 like everyone does. Everyone's like, this. I like Nirvana now or whatever. I quit that, but I was encouraged to continue taking lessons of in some instrument. I started playing guitar and then I played cello for a brief spot of time.

[\(26:39\)](#):

I was encouraged to be involved with music and the arts. Everyone in my family had a big appreciation for that. I feel like my whole life has been attempting to get back to how I felt as a kid. I was an only child too, so I was sheltered from sort of outside experiences a bit. I was a poor kid. We didn't have cable, so didn't really have like... I wasn't consuming pop culture like that. I was watching NPR. I was listening to NPR and watching Nova documentaries about space. I didn't know what was going on until I turned 10 or 11. Like for real.

Babette [\(27:21\)](#):

That's such a shielding though, because I've thought about how much my perceptions of gender were impacted by what I was seeing, which is like Nick Disney. So it was like, that's so raven. These messagings about how to be a girl that you're supposed to be obsessed with boys like Zach and Cody looking mother fuckers. That's what you're supposed to be into. I totally hear what you're saying, where it's like you had your own space to kind carve out what that meant for you.

E.R. [\(27:47\)](#):

I feel like I had no self warrant.

Babette [\(27:49\)](#):

You're like, I wasn't even carving out a space. I was just in space.

E.R. [\(27:54\)](#):

I think, I mean, it's arguable whether or not this is a gender related experience. I think for me it was. I feel like I realized that I was just a dyke. First and foremost.

Babette ([28:06](#)):

You resonate with that?

E.R. ([28:07](#)):

Fucking hell yeah. I realized I was watching a movie when I was nine, and I was like, that woman's beautiful and I want to marry her in the movie. And I was like, oh, I think that means I'm gay. I'm going to forget about that for as long as I can. Then I just tried to forget about it, but obviously could not forget about it for one single second for the rest of my life.

Naomi ([28:31](#)):

I think that's we had a largely identical experience. I felt completely and totally fucking genderless. I only ever had people be like, you are a girl and I was like, no I'm not dumbass. Because people are like, where'd you get your confidence from and I was like... I didn't even think about it as confidence. I was like, you're simply incorrect. I think I would know if I was a girl. But I didn't feel like a boy. And I remember ... Those are girls and these are guys, and they're all my friends, but I'm not one of them. They're fucking IQs are lower.

([29:09](#)):

I legit, when I found out about how sex worked, I remember we got the 90s thing of the weenie goes in the girl's poppo...

Babette ([29:18](#)):

The police.

Naomi ([29:24](#)):

The poppo. And I started sobbing because I thought girls were so beautiful. I thought the boys were so stupid that I was like, that's simply unfair.

Babette ([29:34](#)):

That's so fucking gay.

Naomi ([29:37](#)):

That's so fucking gross. Then I do remember watching Princess Bride, and I remember seeing Robin Wright and being like whoa. I didn't have any of the language. I didn't actually know that that was the equivalent of me being gay. I was in all these games that I was playing. If I did have girl friends, I was always playing their boyfriend, but I didn't think that that was gay. You know what I mean? And then you get into that 12, 13 area and adults are like, well, I can see your little titties.

([30:15](#)):

I was right about you being a girl, and you're like, okay, I guess I'll live in this world, but I'm a girl. Then I got really, really depressed. Then I started self-harming, and then I was trying to figure out how... This is like, whoa, I have to live the rest of my life like this. They were right. I'm a girl. This sucks. I remember that massive shift.

Ally ([30:38](#)):

I feel like I got top surgery and I feel people have asked me where they're like, they just asked me about my reasons for getting it. I'm kind of like, well, one, I just love it. This is great. This is tight as hell. But I would say in an ideal world, I wouldn't have to get it. The experience of having breasts is like there's someone around the corner being like, ah, and you make one fucking false move.

([31:08](#)):

It gets a little bit colder than you thought it was going to get and they're like, nah, full sprint at your tit. It's just like, I don't know. There was an insatiability...

Naomi ([31:16](#)):

Way way that knows what you mean.

Ally ([31:21](#)):

It's like Honeycomb, who's the mascot for honeycomb? There's that out there. And now I don't have that. And now it's kind of like, ha ha. Oh, what did you think was here? I could just lift my shirt and be like, jokes on you. If you saw a picture of my boobs before they're dead. Those are ghost tits and you're looking at ghost tits. But that I feel like happened to me at 13. We went to a waterpark and I just brought my board shorts and my mom gasped an eternal gasp. She was like, and we ran to the gift store immediately about a tankini. And then I had to wear the tankini...

E.R. ([32:01](#)):

The tankini was a true sign of struggle for me.

Ally ([32:03](#)):

Yeah, exactly. You were like, well, I guess if I have to choose between all these, it's the tankini, but why am I wearing the tankini? But that was a moment for me of everyone in the world deciding something I was doing was illegal. I was topless at raging waters. I'll do it again.

Babette ([32:27](#)):

Tits out at raging waters.

Ally ([32:29](#)):

I got a very expensive surgery to be able to do it again.

Babette ([32:34](#)):

Swim and piss.

Ally ([32:35](#)):

Yeah, exactly. I'm here to swim and piss shirtless.

Babette ([32:43](#)):

I think if I tried to do that today, I'd be arrested. That's the thing. Yeah. That's my God. That's what's fucked right.

Ally ([32:50](#)):

And when you're listening to this in 2030 and we have all freed the nipple. Well, I'll be dead. A meteorite. Yeah.

E.R. ([33:05](#)):

We'll all be dead ended it.

Ally ([33:06](#)):

Yeah, I guess so. We just decided to...

E.R. ([33:10](#)):

We all got really quiet. We're like, well probably all be...

Babette ([33:12](#)):

I was thinking about it a little bit. I was like, damn. I'm coming from the East Coast where the smog is really intense. It's really on my mind.

Naomi ([33:22](#)):

I'll be honest. What stopped me was meteorite where I was like, that won't be it.

Ally ([33:29](#)):

No, it's a man named meteorite. I'm sorry. All his friends call him meteorite. I didn't explain that well. The idea that one of you would say something and then the two of us would be quiet for the rest of the podcast is very, I am banking that as a funny thing to do. And I'm sorry. Okay. I do have a question of your guys is kind of gender journey, we're talking about being very archived. What were little steps in that that felt extremely euphoric for you? If you remember specifically even down to a, and then I wore this shirt or whatever.

Naomi ([34:12](#)):

I mean, I feel like anyone who is in our sort of general, I don't know, probably the 25 to early thirties range. We are warriors. We live through one of the worst times in fashion of all time. So true. It was some of the most heinous clothes of all human history. Truly some of the worst ever. So I think anyone who lived through that time and had any amount of gender dysphoria was just existing in the saddest prison you could ever live. I definitely experienced that from like... I truly just didn't think they made clothes for people like me. I was fine in when I was a kid in the early two thousands wearing my cargo shorts, whatever was exactly zip. That was chill. Those were sick. Those were sick. The three-tiered zip off, sometimes in case just wear, you need to go three quarters mode on them.

([35:23](#)):

They didn't know what to expect.

Ally ([35:24](#)):

They did. They were like, what? Then you put the smallest piece of fabric in your own pocket for a while.

E.R. ([35:31](#)):

It's spring motherfucker. But yeah, I think the biggest moments for me were when I just felt better in clothes. It sounds strange, but when I stopped wearing tight ass pants, dude, I swear to God, I got a pair of pants that changed my fucking life. It actually took me out of a depression. So a pair of pants can change your life. I think once I started realizing it was also being, it was kind of the first few years of being a musician and feeling like I had to do a certain thing in order to be accepted, in order to have a career, I felt that I had to be, to a certain extent least...

Babette ([36:23](#)):

What was that thing?

E.R. ([36:23](#)):

...somewhat feminine.

Babette ([36:24](#)):

Being somewhat feminine, okay.

E.R. ([36:25](#)):

Somewhat tolerable in those years. It felt that way and also was like, this is not to disparage anyone in particular, but I had stylists on shoots tell me, you should never wear pants like that bigger pants that I had come to set wearing. They would just say, that's so unflattering. That stuck with me for a long time of like, oh, now I'm just running scared from looking like a fucking idiot, but also feeling so horrible, feeling so misaligned from who my true self was. Then I kind of, one day I just bought a pair of pants and I was like, that. This person was just straight up wrong. And then everything in my life got better from that. I'm like, dead ass serious. That's one notable moment for me or notable sort of path.

Ally ([37:30](#)):

Yeah. I think I had a similar thing where I was just wearing the tightest little pants ever and my hair was down to here and I just was like, yes, ready for the day. Yeah.

E.R. ([37:45](#)):

I like this.

Ally ([37:45](#)):

I love this.

Naomi ([37:49](#)):

I wore garbage for so long, but mostly...

Ally ([37:54](#)):

I can attest.

Naomi ([37:55](#)):

Yeah, I wore garbage, but I was really, what I was doing in high school is I was only wearing athletic clothes. I was playing sports, and so I just avoided so much having to dress like a human being. I was always in sweats.

Ally ([38:09](#)):

Are we talking gray hoodies pulled back? Pony?

Naomi ([38:13](#)):

Yeah. Pulled back pony, gray hoodie, gray sweatpants, white high socks, like basketball shoes or slides.

Babette ([38:20](#)):

Was going to say slides.

Naomi ([38:23](#)):

I wore slides to prom. I was not fucking around. That is like fuck person apparel.

E.R. ([38:36](#)):

Yeah. Wearing that now. Very different.

Naomi ([38:38](#)):

Bro I legit wear that all day today. Yeah. So I don't know. Then I remember then in college deciding, okay, I'm going to really give femininity a go. For me, it just looked like becoming a really massive slut. It was fast. I had gone from being with this partner who I'd had actually we met when we were 14 and we started sleeping together, but we didn't know that we were sleeping together. We didn't know what gay sex was. And we were together for five years.

Ally ([39:15](#)):

You're like, we're freestyling.

Naomi ([39:17](#)):

Yeah. It was interesting. I remember all the girls in my grade were hooking up with dudes and I was like, man, y'all's life is bad. Just thought that someday maybe I'm going to be into it. When you drink beer for the first time, you're like, Monday I'm going to love PBR. I was like, one day I'm going to want to jerk off these assholes. Then I found this teenage girl and we were legitimately fell in love in such a human way. So my euphoria came from kind of returning in that mental way to, we weren't having gay sex, we weren't having straight sex. We were legitimately just touching each other for pleasure and now I can look back and be like, oh, we were dogging. But at the time we were just like, I'm so in love with you. How's all the ways to express it?

([40:13](#)):

That was the first euphoria I felt as a teen.

Ally ([40:17](#)):

Yeah, I feel like going back to the athletic wear, that was such a sick kind of shady spot for a lot of my friends to be like, I'm not visibly gay. I'm an athlete. Someone I went to Christian college with is now on the Harlem Globe Trotters and she's so fucking hot. When I knew her in college, it was like gray hoodie every day and just kind of like what? I don't know. And I'm just like, that was a beautiful cocoon for her.

Naomi ([40:50](#)):

It is kink for me now though. It is when I see, because that girl that I was dating at the time, I remember seeing her spandex underneath of her basketball shorts and being like...

Ally ([41:02](#)):

Well, yeah that's hot.

Naomi ([41:06](#)):

Okay, I didn't know you were allowed to wear it. I'm like this in public. I just saw my partner the other day in bike shorts and was full like, where are you going? Yeah.

Babette ([41:20](#)):

To practice.

Ally ([41:20](#)):

Blocks out. Yeah. Let's see.

Babette ([41:28](#)):

I feel like along this line, I'm curious, what do you think younger you, and I want to hear this from you too, Ally, what do you think younger you would feel about the way you embody your gender today? Does that make sense?

Ally ([41:41](#)):

I feel like if younger me...

Babette ([41:42](#)):

If they could see you.

Ally ([41:44](#)):

Kind of along the lines of what you were saying, younger me would see me and be like, that makes total sense. And if they didn't see any of the in between, they'd just be like, I'm sure it just coasted like this. And that's the natural progression. Sick.

Babette ([42:03](#)):

What about you, Naomi?

Naomi ([42:04](#)):

Probably the same, honestly, I think, yeah, I think younger. I feel very aligned with who I was when I was five.

([42:18](#)):

But that's...

Babette ([42:18](#)):

That's the work.

Naomi ([42:19](#)):

That's the work. Also, I'm 30. It took me until literally two fucking years ago.

Ally ([42:26](#)):

The longest fucking detour.

Naomi ([42:28](#)):

It sucks. I'm glad to have gone through it even though it was shitty at times. But yeah, I feel very much like that person, but just less painfully fucking shy and weird.

Ally ([42:51](#)):

...Cute.

Naomi ([42:51](#)):

Stop. Now you're making me shy again. What about you?

E.R. ([42:59](#)):

I turned 31 yesterday.

Babette ([43:02](#)):

Happy birthday.

Ally ([43:04](#)):

That's right. Happy birthday.

E.R. ([43:06](#)):

Thank you. Gemini season. Gemini season is upon us and I have been calling it this period of time my little boy renaissance. I have this beautiful apartment that I love and it's literally, it looks like a sea captain's house. I don't know what happened, but it happened really fast. And everything is shark themed and I have a, what's it called? A little mobile and it's like little boats. At night I'm just like, yes, the stars on the ceiling bone, the dark stomach. It's truly, it's all little boy. Then the books, the only thing



that makes it maybe not purely a little boy's house is that all the books are dyke Revolution and avenging the black body. And then all of it is this truly radical literature. And then the mobile.

Ally ([44:07](#)):

Boats above your head.

E.R. ([44:08](#)):

I'm in heaven, man.

Ally ([44:12](#)):

What about you? What do you think your younger self?

Babette ([44:15](#)):

Okay, so I am 25, so I feel like I'm still a little bit in that way last year.

Ally ([44:19](#)):

What do you think you would say to yourself?

Babette ([44:20](#)):

What last year? What would I say? No, exactly. That's exactly it. I mean, I think younger me would be like, okay, sick. We're getting there. But there's not even a there it is just like, okay, you're doing you. That's great. I don't feel like I've arrived at any destination per se.

Ally ([44:39](#)):

I feel like I want to go back a little bit because I know a lot of this from all the interviews that we've done and all the talking that we've done. Young, you was come to the dark side. I have cookies Young you was wearing.

Babette ([44:52](#)):

Well, it was very switchy because I had this mom that was dressing me in church clothes every day to go to school.

([44:59](#)):

Then third grade, third grade, I rebelled. This is what I was listening to, fallout boy. I rebelled and started wearing massive t-shirts. And that's the one come to the dark side, we have cookies. If anybody remembers that design.

Ally ([45:13](#)):

I will be eBay that tonight.

Babette ([45:15](#)):

Yeah, exactly. I feel like for me, embodying whatever my true self in terms of gender is really still that switchiness of like. I think what feels hard, that's what feels hard about, there's not a singular identity

that I think is going to feel entirely right. But I feel like my whole identity is the embodiment of, if you guys are saying, oh, I was neither with the girls nor the boys. I feel like one year I was with the girls and I was like, yeah, we're like fairies and we're going out and we're going to go ferry hunting. And the next year I was like, what's up?

[\(45:48\)](#):

We playing flag football or what? And so just every year it would just switch. And then middle school is a whole thing, but...

Ally [\(45:58\)](#):

I'm both depending on the hour.

Babette [\(46:02\)](#):

No, exactly. So yeah, I think I'm still arriving every day.

Ally [\(46:06\)](#):

Yeah, definitely. I love that. Okay, let me see. Go through my questions and see if I have anything else. I feel like I'm very curious, this is a little bit more of an aside, but do you guys have an avatar that you really love of someone that it doesn't totally make sense, but you see gender euphoria for yourself in them? For me, it's very tired men on a construction site. So tired, fucking filthy wearing a shirt that they have nine of identical shirts with the same logo on them. I'm like, yes. But I think that this also kind of taps into the annoying thing of everyone our age just all of a sudden wearing work clothes, middle class cosplay. I am aware of that. But for you guys, is it, do you have something like that?

Naomi [\(47:16\)](#):

The first thing that I'm sure that I have multiple, but the first thing that comes to mind for me is I'm from San Diego, so for me it's like skater dudes.

Ally [\(47:32\)](#):

Like anything can be a belt.

Naomi [\(47:33\)](#):

Yeah, anything can be a belt. Pants, turn into shorts. The sort of, there's a goofy kind of homoeroticism that I'm really attracted to in terms of the way that those type of dudes interact with each other. It'll be really sweet, endearing moments. And you're kind of like, that's strange coming from you because you look like you have never showered.

[\(48:10\)](#):

But yeah, I'm intrigued by that still, but it's so tied to my childhood and the type of people that I saw growing up.

Ally [\(48:21\)](#):

Totally early kind of models where you were like, that's so cool. That's me.

Naomi ([48:26](#)):

Yeah. Yeah, definitely. And I think it's also just an aspirational kind of whatever. Fuck it, go do it like mentality. That is so not who I am as a person because I'm so tentative and I need to feel like I've assessed the situation properly. That's so not skate mentality at all.

Ally ([48:50](#)):

Leap before you look.

Naomi ([48:51](#)):

Yeah, which is why I was a bad skater. I was just a little bit too scared.

Babette ([48:56](#)):

I was also a bad skater for the same reason. And I feel like if you'd asked me a couple of years ago, I would've been like, oh yeah, same thing. Avatar like a skater dude. And then I tried to Ollie for two years and I couldn't do it.

([49:10](#)):

And like you said, I just am not that carefree. I'm not down to break my arm for... I'm not down to.

Ally ([49:18](#)):

That's the definition of carefree.

Babette ([49:18](#)):

That's the stakes. It's like, yeah, let me do this. And it's like, no, my insurance isn't that great right now. Literally I can't break my arm. And so I'd feel like maybe three years ago it was like skater boy and now I'm just like, I just want to be an old church woman. I want...

Ally ([49:35](#)):

Wait what?

Babette ([49:36](#)):

Their fits are so fresh. The matching hats. The black women, the elderly black women in the church that I grew up going to, their fits are so fresh.

Ally ([49:45](#)):

They get home, they put it back in plastic.

Babette ([49:47](#)):

They put it back in plastic. They probably have a pet at home. They own their home. That is what I'm aspiring to. I have my little apartment again, my gender is tired. It's weary, it's jaded. So I want practicality. I want homeownership. I want a pet. I want a few matching outfits with a hat. A hat. That's what I want.

Ally ([50:07](#)):

Beautiful.

Babette ([50:10](#)):

That's what I want. So I think that's where I'm at. At the ripe age of 25. I've just ready to retire. I'm so tired. I'm so tired. It's where I'm at.

E.R. ([50:24](#)):

I guess both mine are kind of problematic. I went and saw Tar and I was like, certainly. It was so humiliating. I was literally accidentally wearing the outfit. I had on a ball cap and this button with a sweater on top of these big baggy pants. And my partner looked at me and was like, is this your Marvel or something? It looked like I had researched for the role.

Ally ([51:01](#)):

You watched the trailer and you're like, yes, that's it.

E.R. ([51:06](#)):

But there's specifically a moment in that film where Tara's like, I am Petra's father. And I was like, yeah, I am Petra's father. That's my gender and then...

Ally ([51:17](#)):

She's got scaring children.

E.R. ([51:19](#)):

Yeah, I guess. Yeah, a hundred percent. Then at the same time in that really trans part of my brain, I truly feel aligned without knowing about any abuse. Nineties Brad Pitt, when he has his long hair and he's gorgeous, seeing gorgeous men with long hair.

([51:45](#)):

There's something about my masculinity where I'm like, oh, this feels nice and balanced to me, but balanced in a way that I still understand a still really trans mask experience. He's got this light femininity about him, but it's still very butch.

Ally ([51:59](#)):

Totally.

E.R. ([52:00](#)):

Where I don't feel super aligned with him in Fight Club with the shaved head. I'm like, that's not mine. But him with him with one...

Ally ([52:07](#)):

Him with the Feather.

E.R. ([52:09](#)):

Sure.

Babette ([52:10](#)):

There's one shoot where actually he's in a dress or something from the nineties. You know what I'm talking about?

E.R. ([52:15](#)):

I don't feel that way, but I would fuck him like that. I think that's what I mean. You're like, I just made that up here.

Ally ([52:22](#)):

You're kind of like a ripped up and comer. Someone Louise. Yeah. Wait, what's the abuse? Is it his alcoholism on the private jet?

E.R. ([52:30](#)):

Yeah, I guess he's not, I mean I don't really know enough about it. It's just one of those things where sometimes you'll be like, you'll say to another person, I guess it's not East Brad Pitt for me. And they're like, well, haven't you heard? And I'm like, let's just move on.

Ally ([52:47](#)):

I'll Google it when I go. Yes, everyone please give it up for our two guests, E.R and Naomi. If you guys would please head to the back. Thank you so much. So good meeting you. Big up big. Yeah. Thank you. Thank you everybody.

([53:09](#)):

Yeah, give it up one more time.

Babette ([53:16](#)):

Our non-binary ambassadors.

Ally ([53:17](#)):

Yeah, thank you.

Babette ([53:19](#)):

Look at them go.

Ally ([53:24](#)):

Great. Thank you so much everybody for coming out tonight.

Babette ([53:30](#)):

For real.

Ally ([53:30](#)):

As we said earlier, only one episode is out, so you guys are kind of at ground zero. Ground floor, ground floor. So in a way, you're kind of making the podcast too.

Babette ([53:50](#)):

No, it's true. You guys are now part of the family.

Ally ([53:53](#)):

Yes. Seriously. We really appreciate it and we, let's see, do we have anything else that we need to cover? This is our producer. You already met?

Babette ([54:04](#)):

Oh yeah. This is a producer Ira.

Ally ([54:07](#)):

Can we just say. Triple Virgo. Big time ADHD. Also, ADHD. But in a different way.

Babette ([54:26](#)):

I'm the kind of ADHD that I booked the wrong flight date for this show.

Ally ([54:32](#)):

I was not going to do this to you.

Babette ([54:33](#)):

I was ready last Saturday and I was like, you guys, the show's tomorrow, aren't you excited?

Ally ([54:37](#)):

You were like, we should put up the ticket link. The show is tomorrow. And we were like, we haven't put up the ticket link because the show isn't tomorrow.

Babette ([54:47](#)):

That's my kind of ADHD.

Ally ([54:50](#)):

Mine is six hours on a fan camp and Ira put all of this together. If you guys are interested. I don't know if you've already seen the merch table. We've got that going on and we also have a Patreon we would really appreciate.

([55:06](#)):

Speaking of extremely specific shows, serial, everyone wants to listen to that. Gender spiral, a few less parents. We're trying to really put out our Patreon and get this funded so we can keep going. We've already done a ton of interviews, so we just need to be able to keep making the episodes.

Babette ([55:28](#)):  
Rolling them out.

Ally ([55:29](#)):  
If that makes sense. Yeah, keep rolling them out. But again, thank you so much. I means so much.

Babette ([55:33](#)):  
Thank you.

Ally ([55:33](#)):  
...for you guys all to come to this show and happy Pride. Now that I'm deeply grateful. And for those of you who will be at Dyke, we will see you.

Babette ([55:45](#)):  
We'll be there.

Ally ([55:46](#)):  
We'll see you there. Have a great rest of your night.

Babette ([55:48](#)):  
Thank you.

Ally ([55:48](#)):  
Have a great night.

Babette ([55:48](#)):  
Have good night.

Ally ([56:00](#)):  
Gender Spiral is an original podcast from Ideation. This episode was mixed by Matt Noble. Music is composed by Chanell Crichlow. Art is by Joey Han and graphics by Honey Hodges. The executive producers are Ireland Micham, myself, Ally Beardsley, and co-host Babette Thomas, as well as Sandy Smallens.

Babette ([56:21](#)):  
If you liked the show, please head over to [patreon.com/genderspiralpodcast](https://patreon.com/genderspiralpodcast) to support us and get access to all of the fun stuff like our Discord server, bonus content, and complimentary merch. You might even find Ally's, personal OnlyFans.

Ally ([56:36](#)):  
Listen that's completely a joke. You will just get a photo of My Dog's Paws. You can also check us out at [genderspiralpod.com](https://genderspiralpod.com) where you'll find a link to leave us a voicemail and ask us questions. Tell us who

you want to hear from and what you want to hear about on the show. And follow us on Instagram. It's @genderspiral. Subscribe wherever you get your podcast. Then stay tuned. We're releasing a brand new episode every single week this summer.

Naomi ([57:05](#)):

Tune in next week and comes come spiral. Okay. Let's try that again. Let's try that again. Okay. Tune in next week and...

Ally ([57:16](#)):

Come spiral with us.

Naomi ([57:22](#)):

Okay, one more time. Okay. Tune in next week and comes spiral with us. I'm going to throw you into a ditch.