

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

Have you ever used Grindr, Ally?

Ally ([00:02](#)):

Yeah, I have.

Babette ([00:03](#)):

I'm too scared to use Grindr.

Ally ([00:05](#)):

Oh, wait, okay. I want to hear about that.

Babette ([00:07](#)):

Well, I feel like they'd come after me with pitchforks on Grindr because I'm just not giving [boy 00:00:12]. No, I feel like it's scary. Isn't it a scary place?

Ally ([00:16](#)):

Totally. It's very hard body boy.

Babette ([00:18](#)):

Also, I know trans women who use Grindr.

Ally ([00:20](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Babette ([00:21](#)):

I don't know. I just believe it's maybe not my place, which is maybe a weird thing.

Ally ([00:25](#)):

Oh, interesting.

Babette ([00:26](#)):

Maybe I just need to get over that. I've been too scared to get down with it. I just feel like, my idea is that it's just not for me, it's for the boys. For the boys. I think I've seen friends use it and I don't have that much of a desire to use it, but then I complain that there's no lesbian Grindr and it's like, I do wish there was a lesbian Grindr.

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

Yeah, that is so interesting. We got into this a little bit with Jes, but the difference between Lex and Grindr, and I'm just like, "Both are so toxic and wrong."

Babette ([00:57](#)):

Lex is a mess. It's like, "I don't want to know your whole life story on this app." It's so chaotic.

Ally ([01:05](#)):

Yeah, I don't know what makes it bad. I remember when I very first heard about it, I was like, "That's awesome." I was like, "Yes, bring back personals culture," but every time I've gone on, I really feel like I'm hanging out with really young people. I don't know if it's like that in your area. It's all people being like, "I just want to make out," and it feels very middle school to me for some reason.

Babette ([01:30](#)):

It's like, "I want to fuck." What are you talking about? You know what I mean? What are we here for? What we talking about?

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

What's going on? Yes.

Babette ([01:40](#)):

Where I'm at currently, dating apps are just not great. I'm in a major metropolitan city, but not a major major, major one. I will say Lex was, back home in the Bay Area, is good for finding housing. I feel like I saw a lot of ads for roommates. Like, "Do you want a roommate?" It's like okay, that seems useful for that, but what have your experiences on Grindr been like?

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

Yeah, I've only used Grindr a few times and I've only met super binary trans guys on it, so it's never really been this dream... It feels like you're very much playing a boy's game. All the guys that I've met on there are pretty boy, even down to the Christian Anderson underwear. I'm like, "You're like gay boy, cosplay or whatever," even if they end up not being like that.

([02:32](#)):

But yeah, I don't know what would the perfect dating... In my mind, the most ideal situation for a dating app, is you're in a major city that isn't your home. That's when dating apps are amazing. You feel so hot, everyone is brand new to you on there, you're like, "I'm matching nonstop. Who are all these amazing people in Atlanta?"

Babette ([02:58](#)):

Totally. I did that once when I was in Chicago and it was very fun, and then I was a little sad because I got back and I guess, there's not this immediacy that you think there is. I was there for three days and it's like, "Okay, people don't check their app." People check their app in a couple of weeks, and so I was getting all these messages a couple of weeks later like, "Hey..." I'm like, "Wow, this is really sad."

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

Totally.

Babette ([03:20](#)):

I feel like I have to be an ad for Field. I think Field attracts the right kind of people, it's a good pool for me where it's like okay, open-minded, open to kink, but then I had a friend who was using Field in the really early days, and as things become more popular, they become a little less hardcore, and I think it really used to be a kink app. It was for picking people up, and so my friend just went on a date thinking that it was just a date and the person wanted to fuck in the park. She was like, "Oh, cute little date."

[\(03:59\)](#):

And so I feel like now, it's maybe kind of coming to the mainstream a little bit more and it seems like fun. But I'm just like, all of these apps fucking suck. I can't do Hinge. Hinge is so, this is a game of 20 questions. What is this? I'm not going to do... I can't do it. It asks you so many questions to sign up for it. It's crazy.

Ally [\(04:22\)](#):

Oh my God.

Babette [\(04:22\)](#):

I can't do that.

Ally [\(04:22\)](#):

Yes.

Babette [\(04:22\)](#):

I don't know what my ideal app is. It's a fun question, though. What's the best queer dating app?

Ally [\(04:30\)](#):

I really don't know, but I do think it's about the culture that you're in.

Babette [\(04:36\)](#):

No, I have something so crazy to say that I actually maybe don't think should be in the podcast, but dating apps is when I'm like... Okay, I'm obviously joking. I'm obviously joking. We should bring segregation back. I just want to be... Because the thing is, I'm on Field and I'm spending 20 hours swiping through a bunch of white people and it's like, "I just want black queer..." Maybe a little less extreme version of that is, I just want a black queer dating app.

Ally [\(05:02\)](#):

No, definitely.

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

That's what I should say.

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

Deeply fair. Deeply fair.

Babette ([05:08](#)):

I'm just like, "I don't want to do this. I don't want to swipe through all of these people." So I just want my own little space, but I think OkCupid allows you to select by race, but that obviously, gets so dangerous so fast, I think.

Ally ([05:09](#)):

Yes.

Babette ([05:22](#)):

But it would be nice just to, like you said, have maybe these little pockets because everybody's vibe is a little different.

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

Yeah, totally. Wait, someone was just talking to me about OkCupid, that they were using today. I was just like-

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

It's very trans.

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

Oh, I had no idea.

Babette ([05:38](#)):

OkCupid's really trans.

Ally ([05:39](#)):

What is OkCupid's thing? You're pen pals or something?

Babette ([05:45](#)):

You write letters by hand. I don't even know.

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

You write checks to each other because it's for 55 year olds.

Babette ([05:53](#)):

Yeah, exactly. I think it's the most basic one and I think they know that the queers have really gotten into it and they've been playing that up. I feel like there's OkCupid ads in the subway and stuff.

Ally ([06:04](#)):

Oh, wait. Oh, that must be it. It was a really stunning and very trans dating app ad campaign in the subway when I was visiting and I was like, "Wait, who is that?"

Babette ([06:15](#)):

I think that's probably OkCupid. I think they've learned. I think they have a good number of settings to identify yourself and yeah, they do let you narrow down. Honestly, wait, is it just OkCupid? [inaudible 00:06:28]. Let's bring OkCupid back. I guess people already are, but we should.

Ally ([06:32](#)):

We should do an ad break for OkCupid and just hope that they pick us.

Babette ([06:35](#)):

Yeah, exactly.

Speaker 3 ([06:40](#)):

Am I even queer?

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

I think I want to take testosterone. I mean, I'm wearing men's underwear right now.

Speaker 3 ([06:44](#)):

Is that a boy or is that a girl?

Jes ([06:46](#)):

Man, woman, cisgender, transgender, we're born into language.

Speaker 3 ([06:50](#)):

Butch, femme, T-girl.

Speaker 5 ([06:51](#)):

Decolonized.

Speaker 3 ([06:52](#)):

Queer, trans, BIPOC.

Speaker 5 ([06:52](#)):

Neurodivergent.

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

Cisgender, hetero, patriarchal, capitalist, girl boss.

Speaker 3 ([06:57](#)):

Queer femme, lipstick every day.

Jes ([06:59](#)):

T for two, like fag boy relationship. Butch.

Speaker 5 ([07:02](#)):

Boyish and spritely.

Speaker 3 ([07:04](#)):

The softer, more faye.

Speaker 6 ([07:06](#)):

Oh, but you're so feminine. You're so feminine.

Speaker 5 ([07:08](#)):

Attraction to a hot T-boy.

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

I used sexuality to try to understand my gender.

Speaker 3 ([07:13](#)):

What does it look like for non-binary people to "transition"?

Jes ([07:17](#)):

I was a boy. If I was looking down at the memory, I was a boy.

Speaker 3 ([07:20](#)):

It's really difficult to look at gender identity head on.

Speaker 5 ([07:25](#)):

Wait, I think I'm trans.

Jes ([07:36](#)):

Hi, I'm Jes and I'm a standup comic.

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

Hi, Jes.

Babette ([07:42](#)):

Amazing. What pronouns do you use?

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

My God. Okay. I know that-

Babette ([07:48](#)):

Deep sigh.

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

I know that that is not supposed to be a loaded question and that you're actually just doing your basic introductory due diligence for your gender-based podcast, but I've been feeling like that's so loaded lately.

Babette ([08:07](#)):

Well, tell us about it. What's been feeling loaded?

Jes ([08:09](#)):

I guess they, or he, I guess. I've been going by they pronouns for more than 10 years is kind of my lore, and then, more recently just with medically transitioning and doing testosterone and stuff, people started calling me he. I was like, "That's perfectly fine." I've been really feeling like my true pronoun is the gay she, but you can't tell people that.

Babette ([08:37](#)):

No, that's so real.

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

You can't tell people that because they don't understand. So I feel complicated, 'cause I'm like, publicly, I feel like they is good and privately I'm sort of like, who gives a fuck? I don't care. I don't know. You tell me? You tell me? I don't know. Why are you putting this on me?

Babette ([08:58](#)):

You pick.

Ally ([08:59](#)):

The gay she is so funny. It's like your pronouns are Mary.

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

The gay she is hilarious. I went to Fire Island for the first time a couple years ago. I don't know if you know this, on Fire Island, basically, everybody gets referred to as she.

Ally ([09:13](#)):

No,.

Babette ([09:14](#)):

I didn't know that.

Jes ([09:15](#)):

Yeah, so everybody is girls. Your whole house full of gay guys, is like, the girls. They're like, "Where are those girls? Where are the girls going tonight?" I had this funny incident where I was at a party at my house. This other guy who lived in my house was talking about me to someone else within my earshot, and I hear him go like, "Oh yeah, she lives here too," and my instinct kicked in and I stepped in front of him and was like, "No, actually my pronouns are they/them, and they're like on the introductory sheet," and he was like, "Oh my God, I'm so sorry." And then later on, I was thinking about it and I was like, "Oh my God. He was just referring to me the same as everybody else."

Ally ([09:58](#)):

No, totally. Maybe that was affirming.

Jes ([10:03](#)):

Oh, it was. And then he tried to apologize to me later. He came up to me and was like, "I'm so sorry I used the wrong pronouns for you. I totally know about your pronouns. I remember from the sheet." And I was like, "No, no, no, no, no. I was wrong. I'm sorry to you, and you actually have to keep doing exactly what you did."

Babette ([10:18](#)):

Yeah, that's so interesting. It sounds like he wasn't even thinking about it or [inaudible 00:10:23].

Jes ([10:22](#)):

No, no. He was right.

Babette ([10:24](#)):

They were just like, "Yeah-"

Jes ([10:26](#)):

He was doing the exact right thing.

Babette ([10:26](#)):

"... girl, she."

Jes ([10:30](#)):

And I was the one who drew attention to my own difference.

Babette ([10:33](#)):

That's so funny.

Ally ([10:34](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([10:34](#)):

That's so funny.

Ally ([10:35](#)):

Whoa. But it is visceral, as someone who also has gone non-binary, has started transitioning. There was just such a chunk of time where I was trying so hard not to look she, and it was just like, the world was just kind of like, "She, she, she." And so it's still in there.

Babette ([10:53](#)):

She is the worst thing that could happen to you.

Ally ([10:58](#)):

Yeah, which is fucked up.

Jes ([10:59](#)):

It is kind of a messed up thing to train yourself. Obviously, everybody should get referred to exactly how they want, but it is a little messed up that we train ourselves to be the worst thing you could ever see me as, is a woman.

Ally ([11:07](#)):

Yeah, totally. Totally.

Babette ([11:11](#)):

Yeah. We've been talking about that a lot recently. I feel like it's come up, this idea of being transmasc means to be hard and the antithesis of everything feminine. And recently, we've been talking about, what's a transmascness that's incredibly soft? Is it formed in opposition to things that are feminine? We've been thinking about that a lot. Yeah, it's interesting.

Jes ([11:32](#)):

I'm interested in the idea that masculine equals hard, and then so the inherent kind of opposite of that, is soft. 'Cause I feel like I've been on this journey, especially with testosterone, where I am actually learning to accept that I am not masculine.

Ally ([11:55](#)):

Tell me so much more.

Babette ([11:55](#)):

Right.

Jes ([12:01](#)):

I had to transition my body and change not even so much the way other people perceive me, but the way that I perceive myself to accept, yeah, that I'm very feminine. I'm very effeminate, I always have been, but I didn't feel like I could be that way before. I felt like I had to be doing this subversive different thing, which for me, meant being masculine, I guess, or trying to be masculine from a place where

people were reading me as a woman. And now that I'm kind of at a base level with myself, I'm like, oh, I was never like that, ever. And this is actually more comfortable for me. I've become much more feminine since being on testosterone. It's been almost four years at this point.

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

Wow, that's so cool. It's almost like, yeah, you transitioned into being a feminine guy rather than you were like masculine woman, no. Let's find something else. It's so strange how we find the exact balancing act that we're going for.

Jes ([13:09](#)):

Totally, totally. Yeah. I think a big fear of mine, before I started was, that I would become a regular guy. Not that there's anything wrong with being a regular guy. It's perfectly great and beautiful to be a regular guy, but I had a fear of that for me.

Babette ([13:25](#)):

But you're not like other guys.

Jes ([13:28](#)):

I'm not like other guys. I'm not like other girls.

Babette ([13:31](#)):

Exactly. Gender is not like other guys.

Jes ([13:32](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([13:35](#)):

How do you feel like now, you would maybe describe your gender outside of these very western binary terms, and then part two of that question is, what was your journey like over the past four years and getting to that place or past however many years? Because you said you identified as non-binary for, or you say them pronouns for 10 years?

Jes ([13:55](#)):

How do I identify myself? Faggot.

Babette ([13:57](#)):

Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. We're pro F word on this podcast. I think we just started kind of throwing that out there.

Jes ([14:07](#)):

Actually, maybe I should have been like-

Babette ([14:08](#)):

There's controversy.

Jes ([14:09](#)):

... can I say faggot? Can I say faggot on this podcast about trending?

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

No. Your instincts were correct and I'm happy.

Ally ([14:16](#)):

Yeah.

Jes ([14:17](#)):

It's actually my identity and I can't be erased.

Babette ([14:20](#)):

Yeah, exactly.

Jes ([14:22](#)):

Yeah, it's been really interesting because, okay, so the sort of spark notes on me is that I've been some kind of gay person for a really, really long time. I came out as a lesbian when I was 13. I did that for a really long time. I went to Smith College. Do you guys know Smith College?

Ally ([14:42](#)):

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

Babette ([14:43](#)):

I know all about Smith, baby.

Jes ([14:46](#)):

I thought maybe you would. For anybody uninducted, Smith College is a woman's college in Massachusetts that's very well known for its lesbian and queer population. A lot of gay shit goes down there. We got a lot of stuff earlier than the rest of the larger queer community did. They pronouns really came into vogue there in 2010. So when I heard that, I was like, "Great, that's for me. That's what I'm going to do." And then I did that, kind of being like a dyke adjacent they, up until about four years ago, when I started testosterone. I was in a relationship with a woman, and then about two years ago, that relationship ended. And then in the past two years, I've kind of been on this total journey of rediscovery, which is just crazy because I spent literally, half my life thinking I knew everything about myself, and it turns out, I actually maybe didn't know anything at all.

Ally ([15:48](#)):

That's awesome. So has it been very faggy? Is this the change you're talking about?

Jes ([15:56](#)):

It's been extremely faggy, it has. And what's crazy about it is, it fits me really well and it fits me, I think, much better than dykedom ever did, and I never knew that because I was doing lesbianism from so young and I was always choosing to be in those spaces and choosing to be around those people because that's what I knew, so I never knew any other alternative, really.

Ally ([16:24](#)):

Oh, totally. Yeah. When you are choosing to go out, do you see a world where your type of gay boy vibe fits with the kind of lesbian spaces? Do you feel like that coexists in places that you go to?

Jes ([16:44](#)):

Both of you two assume that I go out and do fun things. Wow. Way to make a huge assumption about me.

Ally ([16:55](#)):

Deeply fair. Deeply fair. Deeply fair. So the bookstores that you buy...

Jes ([17:01](#)):

Right, that I frequent. Bold of you to assume I can read.

Babette ([17:02](#)):

Right. Exactly. Come on.

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

I know. This is the binary party of your books. What about the stoner who's at home? I think it's really interesting because I think, especially in dyke worlds, especially in dyke worlds, the line is getting really blurred these days. There's a lot of people who are dykes who identify as twinkles or who identify as fags or doing a trans fag thing, or they're like a girl's gay boyfriend, that's a thing. I've been like a lot of girls' gay boyfriends. But I think that that's actually pretty different from being a twink in a cis twink way.

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

Well, yeah, totally.

Jes ([17:56](#)):

My running joke these days is that I'm a cisgender faggot. Fully cis. I went to Fire Island, I came back fully cis.

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

Yeah. Wait. Yeah. What did you describe yourself as? Hold on, I have this in my notes. What is it like identifying as a horny cherub?

Jes ([18:15](#)):

Well, it's distracting. It's distracting.

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

It's distracting?

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

There's a lot I have to get done. I don't know if, do you guys identify with this? I feel like, on testosterone, my body gained... The need to come is... First of all, it's very acute, but it's also not necessarily sexy or fun. It's like needing to pee or needing to drink water. I'm just like, okay, this is the thing I have to do now. It's not that like, "Ooh," like cool. I'm like, "Fuck, I have a half hour lunch break from my... What can I get done?"

Babette ([18:57](#)):

I'm just imagining, just like deep voice, "I got to go come. I got to go come."

Jes ([19:07](#)):

I got to go come again. It's annoying. Like maybe there's other things I have to do.

Babette ([19:09](#)):

Right. That's so funny.

Ally ([19:12](#)):

Yeah. I feel like, in talking to people, a lot of the dovetailing that I've seen has been that kind of increased quick sexual appetite with now being attractive in the gay boy cis spaces, and that just kind of dovetailing in this way of, yeah, you just Grindr, Grindr, Grindr.

Babette ([19:32](#)):

Yeah.

Jes ([19:33](#)):

That is my life right now. That's what it's like, Babette.

Babette ([19:35](#)):

Really?

Jes ([19:36](#)):

Yes. Is that I literally Grindr and other apps like that, are now just sort of other social media that I flip through.

Ally ([19:45](#)):

Wow.

Jes ([19:45](#)):

Yeah. It goes like Twitter, Instagram, Grindr. It's crazy, and I forget that it's kind of not appropriate to be looking at in public. I just forget and I don't... I'm a very sexually open person. I don't care. I'm not scandalized by naked pictures of people or anything. I don't care about that, but I forget that just because I don't care, that doesn't make it appropriate for me to be like, yeah.

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

To just open on up.

Jes ([20:12](#)):

Out where other people can see it.

Babette ([20:14](#)):

Do you know about Sniffies?

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

Yes.

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

I just think that's funny 'cause I only see it kind of with my more faggy friends and it's just a map of holes.

Jes ([20:25](#)):

Yes.

Babette ([20:26](#)):

I find it funny that it's just like map of holes.

Jes ([20:28](#)):

I know, and I think it's interesting because it really indicates, it's like, "Here is a culture of people who are so horny that they've completely done away with their own personal privacy and safety."

Babette ([20:43](#)):

Yeah.

Jes ([20:43](#)):

Like, you can see where somebody lives. I am on there, my picture is very unidentifiable, I think, I hope. But some people I'm like, "I know which one..." Or if you cross reference with Grindr, I'm like, "I know which one you are, and now I know where you live."

Ally ([20:59](#)):

Oh my God.

Babette ([21:02](#)):

Damn.

Ally ([21:02](#)):

You're so horny, you've doxxed yourself.

Jes ([21:05](#)):

I mean-

Babette ([21:05](#)):

Right.

Jes ([21:06](#)):

It is exactly what it is.

Ally ([21:08](#)):

Wow.

Babette ([21:09](#)):

Sometimes I do crave a lesbian Grindr or Sniffies. I do sometimes crave it because-

Jes ([21:17](#)):

I think people do.

Babette ([21:18](#)):

Sometimes I do just want to fuck. It's like we have Lex. Oh, Lex.

Jes ([21:24](#)):

Oh my God. I just did a tweet about this. Sorry, content warning, I'm going to say my tweet out loud. I just did a tweet that was like, "We are sick and tired of dating apps that are shallow and just based on how you look. Lesbians, we're going to do an app that's all text. Gay guys, we're going to do an app that's just dick and hole."

Babette ([21:50](#)):

Yeah, exactly.

Jes ([21:50](#)):

It really indicates, I do a lot of standup about this these days, but the cultural difference between gay men and lesbians is vast, and it's crazy for me to have spent literally 17 years in lesbian world and then try to do this thing that everyone thinks is the same or adjacent and it's completely different.

Babette ([22:10](#)):

Do you have one you kind of prefer, or I guess, I'm wondering the pros and cons of each one, now that you've experienced both? You know what I mean?

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

They're just utterly different. They're almost not comparable. They exist on two different planes in two different realities. Time moves differently. Time moves completely differently.

Babette ([22:30](#)):

It's like 4D.

Jes ([22:31](#)):

Yes. It's crazy. We agree about this lesbian sex, three hours, bare minimum.

Babette ([22:40](#)):

Yes, yes, yes.

Jes ([22:40](#)):

Right. That's just how long. You have to budget the whole night. You just have to assume you can't go anywhere after. Okay. One time, this was a couple years ago, it was one of my first Grindr hookups. I went over to this guy's place and I had somewhere to be afterwards, and I was like, "Aw, I'm not going to have enough time to go get boba before I have to go to my next thing," which was a huge priority for me. And then I was in and out of his house in 35 minutes. I checked and I was like, "Oh, I can get my boba and take a leisurely stroll-

Ally ([23:18](#)):

Yeah, literally.

Jes ([23:19](#)):

... before my next appointment.

Babette ([23:21](#)):

That's so funny.

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

And it's-

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

Like, lesbian hookup, there's dinner, there's fucking for two hours-

Jes ([23:26](#)):

Processing.

Babette ([23:27](#)):

... there's the debrief, which is great.

Jes ([23:28](#)):

Yeah, the debrief.

Babette ([23:29](#)):

There's a debrief. It's like, you're looking at four hours. You're looking at four hours.

Ally ([23:34](#)):

I think in that space, if someone approached me with a 35 minute turnaround, I would feel shocked. In lesbian spaces, I'm just like, it's a lot chillier.

Jes ([23:44](#)):

It's not possible. It's not possible.

Ally ([23:46](#)):

Yes, totally. Oh, that's so crazy.

Jes ([23:48](#)):

What would you do? 35 minutes? You're still on your first trauma in that time? Like, we haven't done charts. We haven't done anything in 35 minutes.

Babette ([23:59](#)):

Exactly.

Jes ([24:00](#)):

We are still listening to Taylor Swift's re-released album.

Ally ([24:04](#)):

Oh my God, yeah. I can't tell-

Jes ([24:06](#)):

All too well, is 10 minutes long. We don't have enough time.

Ally ([24:09](#)):

Yeah, definitely.

Jes ([24:11](#)):

We don't have enough time. I didn't know. That was how I learned that sex could happen within a half hour. That never occurred to me, and now I do it a lot.

Ally ([24:19](#)):

That's so...

Babette ([24:21](#)):

And that feels like fun.

Jes ([24:22](#)):

No, it's fun.

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

Oh, my God.

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

Okay, slay.

Ally ([24:25](#)):

Okay, so I know that this is a bulk of what your standup is about, but what are kind of the beautiful takeaways from each world, or I guess ,let's start with new gay world. What kind of things do you feel like are well done?

Jes ([24:41](#)):

Oh, man. It's hard though, because gays are so toxic, and I say this with love.

Ally ([24:45](#)):

Yes.

Jes ([24:46](#)):

And they would say it themselves. I learned it from them. Okay. Gays are fun.

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

Yeah.

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

Gays are fun, and they love to have fun. Lesbians are not fun. That's just not what it is. That's just not what it is.

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

It's just not about fun.

Jes ([25:03](#)):

It's serious. It's empathetic. It's honorable.

Ally ([25:07](#)):

Totally.

Jes ([25:08](#)):

But gays are dumb and fun, and I love that actually.

Ally ([25:08](#)):

Totally.

Jes ([25:13](#)):

I don't know. Yeah. It's just about kind of the carnal pleasures, like dancing, fucking and kissing and having a good time with your girls.

Ally ([25:22](#)):

Yeah, definitely. Versus... Yeah, totally. I would totally say, you're really after understanding and progress in lesbian spaces, and that's a lot to think about.

Jes ([25:36](#)):

Right. And justice. And those are important. That makes the world go round. That's the bedrock-

Ally ([25:40](#)):

Deeply important.

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

... of the earth.

Ally ([25:42](#)):

Hard at a party.

Jes ([25:43](#)):

We need that stuff. You can't just have... Gays can't run anything. They can't.

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

You heard it here.

Jes ([25:49](#)):

Lesbians get shit done. That's important.

Ally ([25:51](#)):

Trademarked. Yeah, absolutely.

Jes ([25:54](#)):

Yeah. Lesbianism is about deep connection, healing wounds, healing together, growing together.

Ally ([26:03](#)):

Totally.

Jes ([26:03](#)):

Seeing each other in full.

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

Okay. This is probably one step too far, so feel free to be like, no. But do you feel like you could be in a teaching or bridge builder position where you teach the lesbians to have fun and you teach the gays to fucking recycle?

Babette ([26:22](#)):

This is so funny.

Ally ([26:24](#)):

Is that the future?

Jes ([26:24](#)):

I think...

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

It's like you're the gay trans MLK. Just like [inaudible 00:26:30].

Jes ([26:29](#)):

You said that. I never said that.

Ally ([26:32](#)):

Wow. It's crazy that you said that, Jes, and that's now the title of the episode. I don't know what to say.

Jes ([26:45](#)):

Babette said that. I think that it is part of my self-discovery journey, both as a dumb faggot and also, just as an adult to say, Ally, that I don't think that's my responsibility.

Ally ([26:59](#)):

Yeah.

Jes ([27:00](#)):

I think-

Ally ([27:02](#)):

That's a lot of labor.

Jes ([27:03](#)):

I think people are going to have to figure that out for themselves.

Ally ([27:06](#)):

Totally. How are you treated on Grindr as a transmasc person?

Jes ([27:11](#)):

I have pretty good luck, although, I really hear from a lot of people that Grindr and other gay sex apps are very singular to the experience of the person, and it can be really, really different, literally, just depending on who you are and what you look like. So I do okay, but I'm also a really skinny twinkly little Asian. I fit, I'm pretty close to a cis Asian twink. Not that they do amazingly well in gay spaces either, but I imagine, the people who are into me are really into me, and I'm a very, in certain ways, very desirable slash very fetishizeable-

Ally ([27:52](#)):

Interesting.

Jes ([27:53](#)):

... kind of body. So I do all right. But I certainly believe that it's different for, just depending on who you are.

Ally ([28:01](#)):

Yeah, totally.

Babette ([28:03](#)):

Totally. It's like the, "No fats, no fems," thing.

Ally ([28:04](#)):

Exactly.

Babette ([28:05](#)):

Is that still a thing? Do you see that? I don't know about that. I'm not on Grindr but...

Jes ([28:09](#)):

They don't say, "No fats," anymore, they say, "Into fit only," which is the same thing.

Ally ([28:15](#)):

Which is literally the same. Yeah, totally. Do you feel like you had to kind of-

Babette ([28:16](#)):

That's crazy.

Ally ([28:22](#)):

Was there a learning curve for what you're looking for? I don't know. I just feel like my very limited experience with Grindr has been, getting a lot of very weird questions, and so I was like, "Oh, maybe this isn't for me." Anyone can message you. There's no a matching mechanic where you don't have to talk to literally everybody on the app at once. So yeah, I was just curious how other trans guys are navigating that.

Jes ([28:53](#)):

There is a learning curve, and I've changed the way that I do it. I used to care a lot more... What am I trying to say? I used to care a lot more to know if a guy had experience with other trans guys, and then, after a while of asking, because if I was chatting with a guy, I thought he was cute, I would be like, "Oh, have you been with trans guys before?" And then after doing that for a while, I found I was learning things. I actually didn't want to know about them.

Ally ([29:22](#)):

Wait, in what way?

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

I don't want to know that you fuck trans guys all the time actually.

Ally ([29:28](#)):

Oh, interesting.

Jes ([29:29](#)):

Or that you're like a chaser. This is something that's interesting in my experience of having sex with... What I'm saying in shorthand is, having sex with men versus having sex with women or having sex with faggots versus having sex with dykes, is that, with guys, the sex is the end game. And so, I actually in a lot of ways, I don't want to know that much about them.

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

Oh my God.

Jes ([29:55](#)):

I don't want to know stuff that's going to make me not want to have sex with you. 'Cause I'm just trying to fuck. Whereas, a woman, I'm going to try to get to know.

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

Yeah, you're like, "I need to respect you."

Jes ([30:08](#)):

Yeah. And it's about having a deep, intimate connection with another person, and I hate that it feels so very cut and dry, very kind of bio-essentialist, men versus women.

Ally ([30:20](#)):

Yeah, totally.

Babette ([30:21](#)):

Right.

Jes ([30:22](#)):

So, this is all lightly a bit, but it is true. Yeah, so I found I didn't want to know that information anymore, so I stopped asking them that. I also find if people are going to tell you something unsavory, they're just going to tell you, no matter what. You don't really have to ask them. And now, I don't ask at all. I'm just like, Yeah, if you're interested, I assume you know what you're getting into," or, "If you've never done it before, you're probably going to tell me." 'Cause they always tell you.

Babette ([30:48](#)):

I wanted to pivot a tiny bit, and I was wondering how comedy has been a vehicle for you to think about your gender or vice versa, how has processing your gender changed or helped your comedy in different ways?

Jes ([31:06](#)):

Wow. What a big question. Yeah, I feel like my comedy has gone through a few phases. I've also been in comedy about 10 years as well, and when I started out, I had a really brief phase where I was already going by they pronouns in my personal life, but at that time, that was not a commonly known thing at all. So I went through a really brief phase where I was like, "Okay, I'm going to have to do comedy as a cis lesbian because that's what people understand." These are the tropes and stereotypes that people understand. And then I stopped doing that and I started doing just comedy about being non-binary, which I dare to think was some of the first comedy that was happening in straight clubs and stuff that was about that and about they pronouns.

([32:00](#)):

And then more recently, yeah, I've been using comedy a lot to process my transition, but it's hard because comedy is a little reductive. It asks for a sort of reductive way of explaining things. It loves A versus B, it loves men are like this, women are like this. So in some ways, that's very useful to me because like I said, that is kind of how I'm processing a lot of it. I wonder if that's not the best way to be thinking about it.

Ally ([32:33](#)):

Totally. Do you feel like yeah, because it's a little bit more nuanced, so that's kind of pushing you in these extremes, or yeah... Have you met people after shows that have been like, "Oh my gosh, you've put words to this thing that I..." Do you feel like you've met a lot of similar people?

Jes ([32:53](#)):

Yeah, I have. And I've been very lucky, very, very lucky to meet a lot of really cool people who come to my shows and to have been around, at this point, for long enough to have people be like, "Oh, seeing you talk about this or this years ago, was the first thing that made me start thinking about this," which is just a huge honor, huge honor for me.

Ally ([33:15](#)):

Yeah. That's super cool. I really wanted to talk to you because I do feel like when I first came out as a non-binary, I feel like a lot of people at my work and stuff knew of your comedy and would ask me about your comedy a lot. And I was like, oh my gosh. Yeah. So I always remembered.

Jes ([33:31](#)):

You were like, "Who is this twerp? Who's this future twink?"

Ally ([33:37](#)):

But yeah, that's a really fun space to occupy. It feels like, when you're kind of in entertainment, a lot of stuff is delayed and a lot of your past material lives on around you at all times. So have you ever felt stuck by the clips of your jokes that no longer feel true to you being around? Or do you like that, like a little scrapbook?

Jes ([34:04](#)):

Oh my God, I have so much to say about the standup comedy clip economy, in a way where I almost feel like the opposite. I feel annoyed that I can't really go into my archive for clips and mine it for clips. 'Cause I look different and I sound different. I'm talking about different stuff, and I'm like, "That's not actually the first self that I want to be presenting to the world right now." It's not fair. Other people can do clips from five years ago and just use them, and then they're not burning their new material. I cannot do that.

Ally ([34:38](#)):

They're in the same flannel shirt. Yeah.

Jes ([34:43](#)):

I know. It's not fair. Sometimes they look better in the past clip.

Ally ([34:43](#)):

Yeah. Yeah.

Jes ([34:47](#)):

That's a privilege, actually.

Ally ([34:50](#)):

Oh, that's so fucking funny. Yeah, so if you put together a little reel or something like that, you're like, "Oh God, no." It's all got to be the newest shit.

Jes ([34:59](#)):

One and a half years ago, I looked different. I was different. And a lot of the person who I'm becoming, or at least, the person I am in this moment, only started happening two years ago.

Ally ([35:12](#)):

Wow. Oh my gosh.

Jes ([35:15](#)):

And I don't want to post my early transition puffy face, bad haircut. I don't want people to see that.

Ally ([35:23](#)):

This brings me to a topic I really wanted to touch on, which is, attractiveness and confidence while transitioning. How has that felt for you on your journey through starting T and to where you are now?

Jes ([35:37](#)):

Well, I started November, 2019, which was then, shortly followed by this little thing called the Pandemic.

Ally ([35:48](#)):

The what?

Jes ([35:50](#)):

Yeah, it's a big word for Elmo.

Ally ([35:57](#)):

Oh my gosh.

Jes ([35:58](#)):

I had the massive privilege and joy of doing my first couple years of medical transition in the pandemic, and I was hardcore safe about that when we still felt like we could be safe. So I was alone. I was by myself most of the time. So it was really interesting. It was a fully solitary transition where I would go outside completely covered up, and nobody even knew what I looked like. So only I knew what was happening, really. So in some ways, that was good because I didn't have the opportunity really for anybody to reflect back to me that I wasn't what I thought I was. I was just alone by myself. As far as literal attractiveness or feeling attractive goes, I literally feel like I didn't become sexy until I started conceiving of myself as a faggot.

Ally ([36:57](#)):

Interesting.

Jes ([36:58](#)):

I never got it before. I used to feel really insecure in dyke spaces, in transmasculine spaces, looking around at all these hot butches and hot masculine people and being like, "How come? Why do I feel weird? Why do I feel like I can never do that like that?"

Ally ([37:17](#)):

Yeah, interesting.

Jes ([37:20](#)):

And then I became a real life twink and I was like, "Oh, I'm an amazing twink." I'm an incredible twink. I'm perfect at being a twink. I was bad at being a butch dyke. I'm good at being a twink.

Ally ([37:36](#)):

And you just feel like you've flourished.

Jes ([37:38](#)):

Yes, totally. I bloomed, I blossomed. Yeah. And if you look at me, even just before that, even just two years ago, before I was having my faggot renaissance, I look different. I'm dressing different, I look confused.

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

Yeah.

Babette ([37:57](#)):

But you kind of got to do that in private it feels like, is that right?

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

In private, and I had a girlfriend who was the only person that I would see. So it was literally like, I'm either by myself or I'm doing this sort of dyke adjacent thing.

Ally ([38:11](#)):

Yeah, totally. Oh, that's so, so interesting.

Jes ([38:15](#)):

And even in that, I would feel insecure 'cause I was like, "I'm not strong. I'm not strong. I'm not butch. I feel like I should be showing up in a masculine way for my woman," in a way that I just am not really, I just wasn't really doing.

Ally ([38:29](#)):

Yeah, totally.

Babette ([38:31](#)):

Well, I was going to say, just the idea is, you couldn't do that, and also you didn't really want to do that. It's like faggotry is a little bit of a different thing. You were "failing" at this thing, in your eyes, that you didn't really want to do. So yeah.

Jes ([38:47](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([38:47](#)):

That makes a lot of sense.

Jes ([38:48](#)):

But I didn't understand that I was failing at it. I just was like, "If I just try harder, if I just get a blacker T-shirt."

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

Yeah, a bigger carabiner.

Jes ([39:01](#)):

Yeah, exactly.

Ally ([39:04](#)):

Yeah, totally. I can totally understand that masculine pressure. I think even, I have a lot of cis guy friends that have come to that realization as well where they're like, "Wow, I've really been trying to be, whatever we've decided is very hot in a masculine context of big and tough," and you're just like, "Oh, there's so much more to me, that comes way more naturally than that, and I want to be this prettier, softer thing and still be into who I'm into."

Babette ([39:40](#)):

Totally.

Jes ([39:41](#)):

In conclusion, not all men, and it's hard for men too.

Ally ([39:48](#)):

That's very cool that you were able to kind of shed that and find a really fun, true version of yourself.

Jes ([39:57](#)):

Yeah, it's been fun. And I'm curious to see, because again, this is just what I would consider the very beginning of everything, so I'm curious to see what else can happen.

Babette ([40:11](#)):

I love that. I feel like people love to think about transitioning as like, "Okay, and then you arrive and that's it," but it's like, I love the way that you framed that, just being the beginning of things.

Jes ([40:21](#)):

Life is the transition, baby.

Babette ([40:24](#)):

Yeah. Yeah.

Ally ([40:25](#)):

Okay. Jes, do you see yourself playing a twink in Hollywood?

Jes ([40:33](#)):

I would love to be a toxic twink in Hollywood. I would love that. This thing that they're doing now, oh my God. Where I feel like in the past couple of years, they started doing this thing under sort of the guise of representation, where they brought back basically, the catty gay assistant, which is just a trope from the nineties. It's like, that's not progressive. It's actually totally reductive. But what I'm saying is, I would love to do that, and if anybody is casting for an evil gay secretary, I'm ready.

Babette ([41:05](#)):

You would eat that up.

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

I could be a secretary, I could be an intern. The intern who's like, "Girl, that dress." Nobody needs that character, but I need to be that character.

Ally ([41:14](#)):

Oh my God, yes.

Babette ([41:16](#)):

You would eat that up. You would.

Jes ([41:16](#)):

Thank you. Thank you for believing in me.

Ally ([41:21](#)):

Would that be your dream role, or how do you feel about navigating H Wood as a faggo? How do you feel navigating Hollywood as a queer and trans person?

Jes ([41:32](#)):

Okay, so this is interesting. This is actually, something that I wanted to bring up with the two of you, which is that, okay, I love that you both are doing this and that you're doing it together, because frankly, there's a lot of trans and gender podcasts out there, but a lot of them are pretty white.

Babette ([41:51](#)):

Yeah.

Jes ([41:52](#)):

I'm sure there's some out there, but I haven't seen a lot where it's like two people of different races doing a podcast about gender, specifically.

Babette ([42:01](#)):

I think that's really true, yeah.

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

And as you know, of course, our experiences of gender are very racialized and are really different, and I think that sometimes people, and especially white people, don't realize that that is the case. I think that sometimes we get sold this sort of trans experience or transmasc experience, when that's not how it manifests in real life. To bring it back to your question about Hollywood and casting, so something I am navigating is, I feel like I'm not getting considered for casting the same way that white trans guys who are my same type or same body type or similar affect are getting considered for casting. There's a time I think about in particular, when someone I know and I, and this is a white transmasculine, non-binary person, I would say we have fairly similar gender presentations, faggy and pretty and skinny. We had both got auditions for the same show. It was actually, okay, I think I can say this because this is not happening anymore. It was the CWA Powerpuff Girls.

Ally ([43:17](#)):

Wow.

Jes ([43:18](#)):

And this person got an audition for Mojo Jojo, and I got an audition for Buttercup. It was a couple of years ago, so I was earlier in my transition, I guess, and it was the Pandemic, so I had long hair, although, I don't think they knew that when they called me in for that. None of the pictures of me have long hair. But to me, that seemed like a pretty clear example of, okay, here's me and this other person. And I think that we're the same, and there's one key difference between us, which is race. That person is white and I'm Asian, and in these people's eyes, that person is a man and I'm a woman.

Babette ([44:02](#)):

Totally.

Ally ([44:03](#)):

Yeah. Do you feel like it's almost like you have to pick one thing?

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

Well, it's not that I have to pick, not the one picking.

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

Totally.

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

It's like they don't know what to do.

Jes ([44:13](#)):

They don't know what to do. So a couple of years ago, I auditioned for a show that was in development about an older gay man who befriends a young trans guy, and I, of course, was auditioning for the young trans guy, and then the casting came out that the gay man, they cast Cal Pen. And when I found that out, I was like, "Okay, well, I'm never going to get this part now. Cal Pen is South Asian. And I was like, "Why would they? They're never going to cast me also, or frankly, probably any person of color." I was like, "They did that, and then now they're going to get a white guy to do this younger trans guy role." And maybe they cast him so that they could get a young white guy, and then the show didn't end up going. So I don't know what happened with that, but that's sort of my experience trying to navigate casting as a Asian transmasculine person.

Babette ([45:08](#)):

The black feminist saying, it's like all the women are white and all the black people are not or something.

Jes ([45:16](#)):

Totally.

Babette ([45:16](#)):

It's like, you can't both things.

Jes ([45:18](#)):

Totally.

Babette ([45:18](#)):

A representation of transmascsness is this white, skinny, you all know the trope type of thing.

Jes ([45:26](#)):

And it's crazy because I don't think I'm so far off of that trope.

Babette ([45:31](#)):

You're like, "I'm very desirable, actually."

Jes ([45:36](#)):

In so far as I'm like-

Babette (45:36):

I know what you mean.

Jes (45:38):

... I went to private schools. I'm middle class. I'm not even that far off of the beaten path here. I'm a fifth generation American. This is what I talk like, this is what I sound like, but it's a little too weird for people. So we'll see. I mean, whatever. We're all on strike right now, so we'll see what happens when we get back.

Ally (46:00):

Yeah, totally. Well, Jes, thank you so much. Are there places online that people can find you, should you wish to be found?

Jes (46:07):

Absolutely. You can find me on Instagram at Jes The Kid, that's J-E-S, The Kid, and on Elon Musk's Twitter, AKA, X at Jes Tom, that's J-E-S T-O-M. And I'm going to be performing my hour long show, Less Lonely, presented by Elliot Page in Toronto, September 28th and 29th as part of JFL Toronto. So if you check me out on Instagram or Twitter, you can find a link to tickets to that and yeah, hopefully, see you all in the real world.

Babette (46:48):

I am so just like, what does 35 minute sex look like? Because part of that sounds super affirming, but part of that is also just putting me right back to college or high school when I was just having bad performative sex. Do you know what I mean?

Ally (47:01):

Totally.

Babette (47:01):

It feels complicated. I'm just like, is that satisfying? But I could totally see it. I think if I was playing a certain role, that could be very satisfying, but I'm just like, "Oh, am I just going to get fucked by these dudes for like 20 minutes?" I don't know. That's crazy.

Ally (47:16):

Very hard to imagine that. I don't think I've ever had 35 minutes text with a stranger. Yeah, it seems very missing very important preamble.

Babette (47:31):

I know. I know. I'm just like, maybe I'm too much of a lesbian for my own good, but I'm just like, I can't even picture that. It's so funny. Well, it's also, okay, this is the embarrassing thing, which is that, my partner gives me shit for this. I'm kind of demisexual. My partner's always like, "Oh, so you've got to

read a book to [inaudible 00:47:52]. And it's a little, it's not embarrassing. I think it just feels very early Tumblr gay, but it's like, I'm horny for people's personalities.

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

Yeah, totally.

Babette ([48:03](#)):

You know what I mean?

Ally ([48:03](#)):

Totally.

Babette ([48:05](#)):

I need to know you're a little weirdo, if you're just normal, I don't know.

Ally ([48:08](#)):

Yes. Wait. But also, I feel like there's something going on with me too where I don't actually feel comfortable hooking up with someone unless I do really know them or else I have to kind of kick into this.

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

That's demisexuality.

Ally ([48:23](#)):

Yes, totally. Yeah, I think so too.

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

Wow. We're just all demisexual. Slay. But I think it's also just kind of normal. I don't know. I kind of hate this label, 'cause I'm just like, why do I sound like I'm going back to conservative values?

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

Yeah.

Babette ([48:38](#)):

Yeah, sorry I need to know someone before I let them in my pants. You know what I mean?

Ally ([48:46](#)):

I'm monogamous and I need to know you.

Babette ([48:49](#)):

Yeah, exactly. Exactly. It's like obviously, no tea, no shade to anybody's sexual preferences, but I'm just like, yeah, that's kind of what I need. Otherwise, it's just, yeah, it is going to be a performance. For me to actually be present in my body that takes a certain level of knowing that you're not a serial killer.

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

Yeah.

Babette ([49:06](#)):

Knowing that you're not going to murder me.

Ally ([49:08](#)):

You know what though? Honestly, for me, it's not even serial killer. It's like I need to know that you don't have a really basic lens on beauty and hotness for me to feel comfortable hooking up with you because then I feel very performative or I have to be a certain way. It's like I need to feel relaxed.

Babette ([49:26](#)):

Yeah, absolutely.

Ally ([49:28](#)):

I do feel like Jes enjoys their time on Grindr and in those spaces, so it's fun to talk to someone who's an advocate for the 35 minute hookup and then boba solo walk.

Babette ([49:44](#)):

Yeah, I love that boba was their priority. I need to make it in time for boba. I don't know, I feel like Jes is making being gay fun again. It's just like you can be dumb and fun and just have fun and step into that, and that's not exactly my ministry, but I do love having a night where I feel like I'm maybe stepping into that or something. So I feel like that's the fun of queer and trans looking so many different kinds of [inaudible 00:50:14].

Ally ([50:14](#)):

Totally. I know I have friends who are in a band that's all women, and my friend who's the lead singer was saying that all the interviews and stuff are about, so as a band of women, how is it? And she's just kind of like, it's so annoying that I have to answer those questions. And then guys, their questions are like, "I heard you butt chugged a beer and jumped off a..." And all these.... It's just like, "Oh, you were having fun." And so I kind of feel like that's fun for something like Jes where it's just like, oh, you just get to have fun and you don't have to think too much about it and just-

Babette ([50:51](#)):

No, exactly.

Ally ([50:51](#)):

... let loose and be free.

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

Gender Spiral is an original podcast from Audeation. This episode was mixed by Matt Noble, and music is composed by Chanell Crichlow with art by Joey Han and Graphics by Honey Hodges. This show is executive produced by Ireland Meacham, myself, Babette Thomas, my co-host, Ally Beardsley and Sandy Smallens with additional story editing from me. Huge thank you to our guest, Jes Tom. You can find their social media and website in the show notes.

Ally ([51:30](#)):

If you like the show, please head over to patreon.com/genderspiralpodcast to support us for \$2 a month or subscribe to a higher tier for bonus content, special monthly postcards, and even free tote bags.

Babette ([51:44](#)):

You can also check us out at genderspiralpod.com where you'll find a link to leave us a voicemail, to 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 at Gender Spiral. Subscribe wherever you get your podcasts to stay tuned. We're releasing a brand new episode every single week this summer.

Ally ([52:05](#)):

Tune in next week to Gender Spiral.

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

Where you never have to spiral alone.