

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

Ally, do you remember the struggle we went through in trying to name this podcast?

Ally ([00:08](#)):

Yes. Yes.

Babette ([00:10](#)):

It's like, naming things is so hard. And especially with a podcast, you have to think about stupid things like SEO.

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

Yes.

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

Like search optimization. You don't want it to be too long. You want it to be catchy.

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

Does it convey the tone? Is it...

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

Yeah.

Ally ([00:23](#)):

Yeah. Oh my God.

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

Does it convey the vibe? We finally came up with the name Gender Spiral.

Ally ([00:31](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([00:31](#)):

Which we actually captured that moment in our first episode, when we...

Ally ([00:31](#)):

I know. I love that.

Babette ([00:36](#)):

It's such a sweet moment. And we finally figured out the name, and I just had this moment of panic because we found the perfect name, but I was like, "There is a podcast with such a similar name. And it's a friend's podcast. And the podcast is Gender Reveal." And so I called my radio mom, Liza. She's my favorite white woman on this planet. I love Liza. She's the person who got me into radio. And I called her

because she actually went to high school with Tuck Woodstock, who's the person, the host, of Gender Spiral.

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

Gender Reveal.

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

Oh, yeah, Gender Reveal. Oh, see. They're kind of similar. So basically, I call Liza, and I'm like, "Liza, I have this podcast. But the issue is, we're leaning towards the name Gender Spiral and I think it's too similar to Gender Reveal, which is Tuck's podcast." And Liza is like, "Babette, you absolutely cannot name your podcast such a similar name to Gender Reveal." She made me so scared. She was like, "The radio community is going to think that's so weird. People are just going to think that your copying Tuck." And I was like, "Damn, Liza." I mean, Liza tells it to be how it is. She's a Scorpio. So I appreciate that. But then it's so funny because we literally email Tuck, and again, we're so nervous. This is someone I really consider just a treasured community member-

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

Yeah.

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

... and collaborator, such an amazing and talented person. And we email them, and they're literally like, "Bitch, I don't give a fuck. I don't care."

Ally ([02:09](#)):

That response was so good.

Babette ([02:11](#)):

I don't care. It was so good.

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

They were like, "There are only so many synonyms for gender."

Babette ([02:15](#)):

Exactly.

Ally ([02:16](#)):

"It's going to sound similar."

Babette ([02:18](#)):

Exactly. And they were like, "There's a Gender John podcast, which is a Philly based podcast about gender. There's a gender reveal party podcast." They literally listed off 20 names that were similar to theirs.

Ally ([02:29](#)):

Totally.

Babette ([02:30](#)):

And it just felt like a moment of, "Okay, welcome. Welcome to this corner of the internet."

Ally ([02:31](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([02:35](#)):

And the world of gender podcasting, and everything's going to be fine.

Ally ([02:40](#)):

Totally.

Babette ([02:40](#)):

I feel like that's so what we needed at that moment.

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

Yeah, it was such a cool moment of generosity, genderosity.

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

Genderosity.

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

Because, yeah, sometimes when you're in a lane where there aren't that many people, it can get kind of elbows out. And, yeah, I was worried about that too because I was like, I don't know Tuck personally at all. I haven't met them yet. And then it was just like, "Are you kidding me? Welcome." I was just like, wait, such good energy. That was so cool. So I'm glad that we got to actually sit down with them and talk to them.

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

Yeah, totally. So when we did this interview with Tuck, it was Trans Day of Visibility, and they were holed up in their apartment on their laptop working so hard to basically match financial donors up with trans people because they do this thing called Trans Day of Having a Nice Snack. And so I remember we just came into their apartment, they were working so hard. Yeah, it's just such a nice moment to reflect back. We did this interview so many months ago, and it seems like we've come so far since we've interviewed them, but still, this is such an amazing interview and time capsule of a certain moment, and I'm so excited about it.

Ally ([03:53](#)):

Totally. I know in an ideal world, we were going to release this on the next Trans Day of Having a Nice Snack, but I feel like we both were kind of like, "Why haven't we released that episode yet?"

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

Why haven't we released this amazing interview? Yeah.

Ally ([04:10](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([04:11](#)):

I think in podcasting there's always this urge to want to time things up with the news or with specific events and stuff-

Ally ([04:11](#)):

Exactly.

Babette ([04:18](#)):

... and it's just like, let's just release this amazing interview that we did when we were first coming up with this podcast with an amazing figure in the community of trans and queer podcasting.

Ally ([04:31](#)):

Yeah, I think as we come to the end of our first season, we're like, "Why would we wait until the next season?"

Babette ([04:38](#)):

Why wait longer?

Ally ([04:40](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([04:40](#)):

Totally.

Speaker X ([04:44](#)):

Am I even queer?

([04:45](#)):

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

([04:49](#)):

Is that a boy? Is that a girl?

([04:50](#)):

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

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

Butch, femme, t-girl.

[\(04:55\):](#)

Decolonized.

[\(04:56\):](#)

Queer, trans, BIPOC.

[NEW\_PARAGRAPH]Neurodivergent.

[NEW\_PARAGRAPH]Cisgender, heteropatriarchal, capitalist girl boss.

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

Queer femme, lipstick every day.

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

T for T, like fag boy relationship.

[\(05:06\):](#)

Butch.

[\(05:06\):](#)

Boyish.

[\(05:07\):](#)

Kind of like, spritely.

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

The softer, more [inaudible 00:05:10].

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

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

[\(05:12\):](#)

Attraction to a hot T-boy

[NEW\_PARAGRAPH]T-boy.

[\(05:14\):](#)

I used sexuality to try to understand my gender.

Babette [\(05:17\):](#)

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

Speaker X [\(05:22\):](#)

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

[\(05:25\):](#)

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

[\(05:29\):](#)

Wait. I think I'm trans.

Tuck (05:42):

My name is Tuck Woodstock. I am the host of the podcast Gender Reveal and the co-founder of Sylveon Consulting, which is a consulting group where we try to help people tell better trans stories. And I live here in this house in beautiful Queens, New York.

Babette (06:01):

Yes. Where my dog is sneezing-

Tuck (06:02):

Sneezing.

Babette (06:04):

... all over in the background. I don't know what's up with him.

Tuck (06:08):

I love him, so.

Babette (06:10):

Okay, I feel like I was just curious, what your day has looked like today, because it's Trans Day of Visibility, but you have this initiative where you do Trans Day of Snacks, and I'm just wondering if you could talk about it, the impetus for it, and also what your day has looked like, just in terms of maybe matching people up or whatever you would want to... I would just love to be filled in.

Tuck (06:35):

Okay. Yeah. So the impetus for Trans Day of Snack was, in 2021, my friend Niko Stratis and I were tweeting, bracing ourselves for Trans Day of Visibility, and my friend Lilith, as a joke, replied Trans day of Staying in and Having a Nice Snack. And because I love to make extra work for myself, I decided that because Gender Reveal was due for a mutual aid initiative in the spring anyway, why shouldn't we make our mutual aid initiative that we just buy snacks for as many trans people as we can?

(07:07):

So for that first year, we were sending people \$10 on Venmo for them to buy their own snacks anywhere in the country, and we paid out more than a thousand people. And then on top of that, there's a separate part of the form that says, "Do you need help with basic necessities like food, housing, medication? If so, fill out a little more form and we'll try to send you a hundred dollars if we can." So that first year we did a thousand snacks and 190 larger mutual aid payments. And then last year, we had to take a break from the snacks because that's so much work and just did mutual aid payments. But this year, we're back baby.

(07:47):

So we're focusing on just the states that either have already passed anti-trans legislation in the last couple of years or that are considered by experts to be at high risk of doing so in the next several

months, and that is 26 states. And I wanted to do every state that had an anti-trans bill somewhere in the legislation, but that would've been like 45 states and that's all of them almost. And so we narrowed it down to just the high risk ones.

[\(08:13\)](#):

And so, what my day today has been like is really just a continuation of a whole week of scrambling. So yesterday I made sure that our Trans Day of Having a Nice Snack bonus episode dropped in the middle of the night basically explaining our entire initiative and sharing an interview with Lilith, who was the creator of the phrase. And we also launched this form where people could apply for snacks and/or mutual aid.

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

We also have another thing on top of this where I talked to Dean Spade in an interview last season of Gender Reveal, and he completely unintentionally and unknowingly made me feel bad about just doing financial aid for people. And so we also are putting together this huge resource document of all these other financial and non-financial resources for trans folks, specifically in states impacted by anti-trans legislation, but also anywhere. So we're making sure that document is up-to-date, robust, filled with resources.

[\(09:07\)](#):

Right now what I'm doing is just entering hundreds and hundreds of donations into a Google form so that I know how much money we have, and then sending \$2,000 at a time to my friends who have volunteered to send out the snack payments. And so it's a very elaborate form of interconnected Google Sheets, which is why, when you got here, I was just in the void, staring into my computer because there's six interconnected Google sheets that I have to try to keep track of. And then gays famously are bad at math, and so it's just a lot of math and trying not to click something that will delete the whole project so, hard to pop in and out when it's just constantly getting a hundred notifications an hour, so.

Babette [\(09:49\)](#):

Okay. I have two follow-up questions, which is, A, what is your sign, because you seem very ambitious?

Tuck [\(09:56\)](#):

I'm a Sagittarius.

Babette [\(09:57\)](#):

Yep, yep.

Tuck [\(09:59\)](#):

Yeah, but I was raised by two Capricorns.

Babette [\(10:00\)](#):

Yep, yep. I'm just like, I would not have the organizational capacity to do what you do. That's amazing. And then my second follow-up question is, you said that when you were thinking about the impetus for Trans Day of Snacks that you were bracing yourself for Trans Day of Visibility. Could you just describe

what you mean by that? And also then maybe what you think about this idea of visibility and Trans Day of Visibility specifically?

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

Of course. So Trans Day of Visibility was founded by a trans woman in 2009, and we were just at a different point culturally. This was pre-transgender tipping point, by which I mean the Time magazine cover with Laverne Cox in 2014. People hadn't really heard the word non-binary, for example. If they'd heard of trans people at all, it was like a transsexual on Maury or something like that. It's not that trans people didn't exist and didn't have robust community by themselves, but non-trans people didn't tend to know a lot of trans people or know a lot about trans people. And so there was this need for visibility for trans people to find each other and for non-trans people to learn more about what it is to be trans, especially beyond a punchline or a scandal of some kind.

([11:07](#)):

And then we fast-forward not that many years later to 2023 or even 2021, and we're hyper-visible in a way that lends ourselves to being the target of a lot of violence and political ire. And obviously the level of violence that someone experiences as a trans person is really dependent on their other identities. So I don't mean to flatten it and be like, all trans people are being targeted equally, because that's incredibly not true. But regardless, I just feel that having visibility without protection is really dangerous. And right now, trans people are incredibly visible. They're being perceived and then they're being attacked. And every time non-trans politicians or organizers or legislators learn something new about trans people, they then use that as fodder for their next anti-trans bill. As soon as they learn something about us, they try to take it away from us.

([11:57](#)):

I don't want to take away the concept of visibility from people who find it empowering. I know there are a lot of trans people on Trans Day of Visibility who really appreciate posting a selfie and talking about how much they love being trans, and I think that that's really important and something that we can do every day, including today. But I also think that trans people are really tired and they're tired of being perceived and they're tired of being targeted and they're tired of being made a spectacle. So if someone, especially someone in a state where they're being really directly targeted by the state, doesn't want to be visibly trans today, they actually just want to stay home and eat dumplings or whatever, I just want to be able to enable that because it's a really, really exhausting time to be trans. And everyone deserves more rest than they're getting, I think.

Ally ([12:42](#)):

I'm curious because you host gender reveal and you've talked to so many people. Something that we're coming up against is we have so many questions for people about their relationship to masculinity and femininity, and we keep saying it all with a little wink because we don't believe in those things. How do you manage that talking to people?

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

Yeah. Luckily I'm the interviewer, so I get to ask them what it means to them. And we do have a running bit that's now more than five years old where if anybody identifies as a femme, we do make them explain what that means to them. And that has died out a little bit. People who are really strongly identifying as, "I'm a femme," happens less often on our show now for whatever reason. But when it



does happen, it's really fun to see the range of responses because some people are describing an aesthetic, and some people are describing personality traits like, "I'm caring and I am warm and I'm empathetic." And some people are like, "It means that I love to paint my nails." It is really this huge range.

([13:47](#)):

And that's true for masculinity as well, obviously. But first, there's not really an opposite to people coming in and saying, "I'm a femme." There's no, "I'm a butch," that we're seeing on this podcast specifically. Obviously that exists in the world. Anyway...

([14:01](#)):

When we're talking to people about gender, a lot of times, they will express a feeling like, I don't know what masculinity and femininity mean, do they mean anything? And then other people will say, masculinity or femininity or both are really, really important to me and here's how I'm exploring it. And it's just gender, which means that it's different for every single person. And I am really glad that it's not my job to write a dictionary definition of what these words mean, because truly everyone is just vibing, and the only way to get through it is just to embrace the fact that everyone has their own little definition. And it's the same thing as, you know that high thought where someone is like, "What if your green is really my red?" And it's like, it doesn't really matter. It's just that feeling, but with gender, where it's like, do we mean the same thing when we're both saying masculinity? I don't know, but whatever. It's okay.

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

Yeah.

Babette ([14:51](#)):

Yeah, totally.

Tuck ([14:52](#)):

I don't know how else to get through other than that.

Ally ([14:53](#)):

Yeah, definitely. I think it feels very slippery for us, but in a way that feels like, it's worth it to still keep using these terms because they're so ancient. It's like a fun balancing act that we keep doing with everybody.

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

Going along those same lines, how would you describe your gender, and how have you come to understand it the way that you do?

Tuck ([15:17](#)):

Totally. So for many years, I did feel like there was this sort of be feminine or masculine pressure. We were sort of replacing the male/female binary with the masculine/feminine binary, and you still had to pick one. And I really don't feel that way, but that's just a me personal experience, is that I didn't feel that to the same extent. However, maybe that's just because I did start using and feeling more of the

term trans-masculine. And I use that because, if we're just going to look on paper at all of the things that I do and all of the things that I look like and all of the ways that I interact with the world, I'm like, okay, well that's going to, on average, lean towards a trans-masculine presentation. It's like, some people will go on hormones and take testosterone and do those things specifically...

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

Actually, let me back up a little bit because this is really important to me. Let me try to think about this. So I think that the word faggot is really important for my gender and a lot of people's genders, and I see a lot of, quote unquote, "trans-masculine people" who are going on T and getting [inaudible 00:16:36] surgery and all of these things, not in order to look like a really masculine man, but to look like a really feminine man, or in other words, a really faggy man. That's really important to them. They don't want to look like a woman, they want to look like a faggy feminine man. And that's something that I don't always relate to in all exact moments of my life, but it is something that I relate to a lot, where it's like, oh yeah, I want to wear a statement earring that says cunt, but also the rest of my outfit is going to be for boys. I don't remember where we started with this question, but that's where I got, what was the question?

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

So you identify as a fag?

Tuck [\(17:13\)](#):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. [inaudible 00:17:17] And so for me, using the word trans-masculine is also okay. In the aggregate, I am doing things that are typically labeled masculine or trans-masculine, but that doesn't mean that I'm like, "It's me, a man, and now I have to follow all of the rules of masculinity." I think one of the joys of sometimes moving into a space where you're passing as a man is once you get into those spaces, if it is safe for you, which it not always is, you can really fuck with those expectations of masculinity and being like, "Hey, I'm here in your space, but I'm actually not going to follow any of your weird rules because they're weird." And that feels really good and empowering when you can get away with it, which again, sometimes you can't. Sometimes you have to safely go to the bathroom. Yeah, yeah.

Ally [\(17:59\)](#):

But if you're with your dumb ass cousins-

Tuck [\(18:02\)](#):

Yeah. Totally.

Ally [\(18:02\)](#):

... you can be like, I'm going to-

Tuck [\(18:02\)](#):

Exactly.

Ally [\(18:04\)](#):

I'm going to bring us to a weird convo topic.

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

You're like, in a Zoom meeting, and you're just like, whatever. No one can get me here. I'm in my home.

Ally ([18:12](#)):

We're talking to someone about childhood, and it does feel like a kind of... Well, I guess this is a little bit different than feeling super faggy boy, but it's also feels a little bit like pre-pubescent boy. I know that a lot of trans people are kind of infantilized, so that's the ugly side of this. But I definitely felt kind of pre-scary toxic masculinity entering the picture, like boy vibe. And I really enjoyed that.

Tuck ([18:41](#)):

Well, there's a lot of layers to that because I think there's also trans people wanting to have an adolescence or childhood that they weren't able to have before they transitioned. So everyone wants a little moment to just have some fun and whimsy in their lives that they maybe didn't have before. And then there's infantilization. There's also, sometimes trans people, especially white trans people, trying to not be held accountable for their actions. And so they're like, "No, I'm not a man. I'm just-

Babette ([19:06](#)):

"I'm just a little boy. I'm just a baby." [inaudible 00:19:10]

Tuck ([19:10](#)):

So there's a lot of different things that can be happening there.

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

Yeah, there's no fuck man. [inaudible 00:19:14] Most people are punished.

Tuck ([19:19](#)):

So there's so many different reasons that someone would feel that. And then we also just get questions on Gender Reveal from actual kids who will say things like, "Hey, I can't imagine growing up to be a woman, but I also don't really see myself as a man TM. KIs that because I'm non-binary or because I am a teen?

Babette ([19:38](#)):

Right. Exactly.

Tuck ([19:40](#)):

You actually can't know this yet because you're 15, and it totally makes sense that you can't imagine yourself as one of these very adult genders because that implies so much other stuff that you can't imagine yet because you're a kid. So yeah, there's just a lot going on about imagining the future and imagining ourselves into the roles that we think of when we think of adults, because even if we're in our twenties and thirties and beyond, if we're trans, a lot of the time, although not always, but a lot of the time, we're not following a traditional cisgender heterosexual route towards life. And so that can also feel a little bit like arrested development, the concept, not the TV show, because we're not hitting those milestones in the same way that straight cis people are hitting them.

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

Definitely.

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

I was just talking about this to a friend yesterday because we were going to see a show. We saw [inaudible 00:20:25] at BAM in downtown Brooklyn, and we got out of the Uber and I was just like, "Wow, I never thought being from Oakland, California, I'd ever be in the big city." But the truth of the matter was, me and my friend who are both queer, black lesbians, we were just like, "Oh no. The reality is, I didn't see myself being alive."

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

Literally.

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

"I didn't see myself being alive." I never imagined what I would be because I didn't think I'd be alive.

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

I think that it's actually-

Babette ([20:51](#)):

I was like, "Wow, I never imagined." It's like, no, I never imagined my adulthood, period.

Tuck ([20:54](#)):

I think that's really normal. I think it's pretty hard to find a trans person who has imagined themselves past 30 or 35. Obviously now there are many trans people and have always been trans people who are older than 30 or 35. But I think if you go into a room of trans people and you say, "Oh yeah, I didn't think I was going to live past 25 or 30," 90 to 95% of them are going to be same. Whether or not they knew they were trans, it's just none of us were able to do that. I very much remember when I went from imagining three weeks ahead of my life to imagining one year ahead, and one year ahead was really big for me because I was like, wow, I'm committing to be alive for an entire year. That's wild.

Babette ([21:29](#)):

Yes.

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

So yeah, I think that's super normal. And it's also this continued difficulty that we're having where it's not, again, that there are no older trans people, but they are less visible than the younger trans people. So then there's a lot of young people who are in their twenties and thirties, but they're like, well, I'm the oldest trans person I know. And so I have no role models for what it looks like to age as a trans person. And that leads to a lot of shenanigans because none of us know what we're doing.

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

[inaudible 00:21:57] a little less direction in your life.

Babette ([22:00](#)):

And I think in my case, it was, yes, half, in high school I was deeply depressed, and didn't think I would actually make it, but also half what you said of just actually not having roadmaps, feeling like, oh, I have to actually imagine the kind of life that I want. And now it's nice because I'm like, okay, I think I have the resources, the peace of mind, the will to actually imagine a future roadmap. But it's just so hard for... Most people who are just non-normative, even beyond gender, just in any way, it's pretty hard.

Ally ([22:32](#)):

You might imagine it, but it's so disquieting for you to sit with that. You're like, well, I guess I'll have a nice husband and a sporty son. I don't know. You're just kind of like, [inaudible 00:22:43].

Babette ([22:42](#)):

That was your vibe. That was your vibe.

Ally ([22:45](#)):

And maybe I still will.

Babette ([22:46](#)):

Yeah, exactly. No, exactly.

Ally ([22:49](#)):

My partner and I talk a lot about glimmers and just being those little moments where you're just kind of like, yeah, maybe that's a possibility model or something like that. Was there anything like that for you, figuring out what the future would look like for you, next steps? Were there people you met or things that you watched or heard about that got you really excited about the future, your own future?

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

No, but I do think that making Gender Reveal just creates that in the aggregate because I'm talking to dozens and dozens and dozens and dozens of trans people. And so it's not like, oh, I saw this one person from across the bar, and I was like, that's going to be me and I'm going to live that way in a [inaudible 00:23:36] moment. But it does mean that one of the most important things to me about Gender Reveal is that it opens up an entire world of possibilities because we're talking to 150 different people who all live different lives.

([23:48](#)):

And so I think that when we do hear trans narratives, we hear the same one or two or three trans narratives over and over again. And it felt really important to try to make space for a big plethora of different experiences. So I don't think there was a moment when I saw someone and was like, that's me baby. But there is many moments where I was like, oh, it can really look any way, and here are all of these people who are thriving in ways that are good for them. It's not so much, I'm going to follow this roadmap, but it's like, I get to make up my own thing in community with all these other people who are also making up their own thing, and we can help each other out as we do it. It doesn't have to be completely isolating.

Ally ([24:30](#)):

That's really interesting. I like that idea. Instead of, there was one character on a TV show, it was more like you using the idea of community, kind of created a magnetic pull to have more trans people in your life. What went into Gender Reveal, and what was the process of starting it like for you?

Tuck ([24:49](#)):

I went to school for documentary, film and radio. So I have a background in the work that I do now. And then I was an editor at magazines for many years. And so I've been working in journalism for a long time. And when I was still working at a local magazine, I started a different podcast, not Gender Reveal, for like a year and a half. And when that one was wrapping up, instead of just going back to working one job, which I have never done and will never do, I was like, what if I made a new podcast that was much more labor-intensive and took a lot more work?

([25:26](#)):

And the way that this podcast came to be specifically was that I went to this conference that was, and this was my bad, a women's podcasting conference, but it was 2017 and I had only been out for a year or so, and there was a thing on the website that said, trans people are also invited. And I was like, okay, which is like [inaudible 00:25:48], but you know, whatever. And so I went to this conference, and despite them saying trans people are also invited on the website, there was no acknowledgement once I got there that trans people existed, that non-binary people existed. There was very few queer people there, which didn't seem weird at the time, but now is incredibly weird because Olive Radio is so gay. It's so weird that it was so straightforward.

Babette ([26:11](#)):

So much gay drama.

Tuck ([26:12](#)):

Yeah. So I met a few friends there, and as we were talking, I was brainstorming this new show, and I was just thinking that I, as a trans person in Portland, Oregon, where everyone is trans, was able to have these really rich conversations about gender with my friends. And I just felt like a lot of people didn't have access to those conversations because of where they lived or who they are or how much they're able to leave the house, how they're allowed to be out, what their age is, what their job is. And so it just felt really important to try to create a space where these conversations could be heard by a larger swath of trans people.

([26:53](#)):

And then 2017 was also a time when trans people were first starting to be perceived on a more widespread level by non-trans people. So there were a lot of people, and there still are, but there were a lot of people being like, I don't understand what trans mean. I don't understand what non-binary means, but I really want to learn. And it was like, okay, well, this is a resource where you can listen to trans people talk to each other if you want, but you cannot interrupt them with weird questions or being inappropriate. So while our audience is really intentionally trans people, this is made by, for, and about trans people. I did know that cis people could also listen and benefit from it and hopefully maybe be less antagonistic to the trans people in their lives because maybe they had learned something on a podcast. That was my dream. I don't know if it panned out, but that was the goal that I had at the time.

Ally ([27:42](#)):

Whoa. Yeah. I wonder if there's a way to sandwich a little trans podcast in some other media.

Tuck ([27:49](#)):

Yeah, I mean, I think what it comes down to ultimately is that if you're the type of person that seeks out a trans podcast, you already care about trans people. And if you don't care about trans people, you're not going to listen to the podcast. So I wouldn't say that it's an incredible tool for converting people to the cause in that specific way, but it is a great tool in converting people to the cause in that it makes people realize they're trans all the time.

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

I mean, totally.

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

And then it also I think is useful for people who are actually allies TM, like people's parents, people's partners, people's friends, people's family members, teachers, educators, things like that.

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

Totally.

Tuck ([28:26](#)):

So it has been helpful for people who are really interested in putting in the time and learning, which is probably more useful ultimately than springing it on a random person.

Ally ([28:35](#)):

Yeah, we interrupt this news broadcast.

Tuck ([28:38](#)):

Exactly. Yeah. I mean, it doesn't really benefit. We're seeing right now in real time that it does not benefit us to spring transness on random people. They don't react well, it turns out, and we're in danger, so.

Ally ([28:51](#)):

Yeah, I really ID with the idea of searching out trans media because you're like, I actually just think it's interesting. This isn't me, but I'm just so interested.

Tuck ([29:04](#)):

Yeah, exactly. It's so funny.

Ally ([29:07](#)):

Yeah, I just really want to listen to every single episode of this.

Tuck ([29:10](#)):

For normal reasons.

Ally ([29:11](#)):

Yeah.

Tuck ([29:12](#)):

I mean, I have friends who listened for literally years before they came out, and it's so funny, and sometimes when we're answering advice questions on the show, we'll get a question that's like, "I'm a cis man, I'm pretty sure, but blah, blah, blah." And I do know a lot of people, cis people, listen, so I kind mind my business, but whoever's helping me answer the questions will be like, "You're writing to the transsexual podcast saying, 'I think I'm a cis man.'" Why are you listening to this podcast? But if cis people do listen, good for them. I listen to podcasts about people that aren't like me, so I understand conceptually that it could happen.

Ally ([29:46](#)):

Yes.

Tuck ([29:47](#)):

So it's funny.

Ally ([29:47](#)):

It definitely could.

Babette ([29:49](#)):

What is your favorite thing about producing media on trans folks, about trans folks, either writing or producing any type of media, and then also, what is your least favorite thing?

Tuck ([30:02](#)):

Vroom, vroom. I'll just think as this revs their engine outside. Are you going to go? The thing about the revving is, just go.

Babette ([30:02](#)):

Yeah, exactly.

Ally ([30:02](#)):

Just go.

Tuck ([30:13](#)):

Why are you revving?

Babette ([30:13](#)):



That's masculinity.

Ally ([30:13](#)):

That's masculinity. They're like, vroom, vroom.

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

Yeah, okay. Well, my least favorite thing is just having this extra layer of safety concern and this feeling that it is good that we're not too famous, because if too many people listen to us, then we're once again opening ourselves up to attack. If anybody notices too much, it could get dangerous the same way that it's dangerous for any trans person to get noticed too much, and that sucks. And I don't want to ever have to think about security threats at my shows, and I don't want to ever have to think about whether it's dangerous that our website that has a list of all of our guests and all of our grant winners could potentially just be a place for bad actors to go through and look at all of these names that we have accumulated of trans people. I would love if that wasn't the situation, and I would even love if we didn't have to do so much mutual aid because everyone already had housing and food and medicine. That would rule.

([31:13](#)):

So I think, yeah, the hardest thing is just that it's bad. It's bad out there. It can be really scary. And it's not scary for me, for better or for worse. I just don't feel threatened by it personally. But I do feel really concerned for my guests sometimes, not because anything has especially happened to us, but just that I could see it happening because it's happening to my friends in other fields. It's happening to my friends who are teachers and doctors and nurses. They're all really getting targeted. And those people would also come on the show sometime. So I just get worried for everyone, and I hate that. I feel like there's an upper limit on our popularity after which it becomes dangerous to make the show.

([31:53](#)):

My favorite thing... My favorite thing about making the show just means that my job is that I just get to hang out with the coolest people on earth. I just get to pick people who I think are doing the coolest possible thing and be like, "What are your deep thoughts about your own experience in the world?" And there's so many delightful moments, when even people whose gender maybe seems uncomplicated on the surface, it turns out it only seems that way because no one has really just ever asked them about it. And that's not to suggest that people should go around and be like, "Babette, okay, but tell me everything about your junk." That's not appropriate. But I made a fun little venue in which we can have those conversations.

Babette ([32:38](#)):

Totally.

Tuck ([32:39](#)):

And it's really rewarding to talk to people. Yeah. Anyway, it rules. No, my job is incredible. I feel so lucky every day that my job is getting to talk to trans people. I think that we're so creative and so funny and so smart and so brave, and obviously there are trans people who are the most annoying people in the entire world to me. But at the end of the day, I would still defend them against the actual bad guys who are the people of the world who are trying to harm trans people.

(33:09):

And so I think another hard thing about making a show about trans people is just like, in any small group of any marginalized community, there's going to be little inner community squabbles at all time, and you're going to be constantly navigating the drama between this group and this group. And also, I'm going to have my own secret drama where it's like, "Well, that person will never be on my show." But it's fine because at the end of the day, like I said, we're actually all in it together. And other than absolute political traitors like the Caitlyn Jenners of the world, or Blaire White or whoever that is, everyone else, we're all looking out after each other hopefully.

Ally (33:45):

So you'd never interview Caitlyn Jenner?

Tuck (33:48):

Well, I mean, I would never... Yeah, probably not. The way-

Babette (33:51):

You wouldn't want to give her a platform, but I do have some curiosities though. [inaudible 00:33:55].

Ally (33:54):

You'd just delete half of the interview.

Tuck (33:58):

That's the thing is, it depends on the terms of the interview. So we have had a couple of occasions, or I will say at least one occasion, where I interviewed a trans person who I really deeply disliked to try to do a tiny little Z-way to them in the middle of an interview. And it didn't go well because it was really just giving them a platform to say nothing for 45 minutes so that I could ask two funny questions about how maybe we shouldn't commodify the concept of community. Even then, I feel very strongly that it is so tempting, I want to do this all the time, it is so tempting to try to win people over with little facts and semantics and be like, "Oh, if I can just get Caitlyn Jenner to admit that her views make no sense, or that she's being a hypocrite or a traitor or whatever, then she'll simply be normal." And it's like, that's never going to... So what would be the point? What would be the point in talking to her?

Ally (34:57):

[inaudible 00:34:57]

Tuck (34:57):

I really try to focus as much of my energy as possible on things that I feel are actually helpful, and normally that's making media about people who seem good and cool, and that we could learn from them instead of being like, "Here's someone's bad opinion. Let me put it out into the ether so more people hear it."

Babette (35:14):

Right.

Ally ([35:14](#)):

If someone is just starting down the Gender Reveal rabbit hole, what are some episodes you want to highlight? Where should they start? What are some that you had fun in?

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

Well, where they should start is we have a page on our website called [genderpodcast.com/starterpacks](http://genderpodcast.com/starterpacks) where a bunch of episodes are sorted based on interest. And so you can decide based on your personal interests [inaudible 00:35:37] where you want to start.

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

Capricorns.

Tuck ([35:40](#)):

I mean, I think the Jules Gill-Peterson episode is sort of an all time banger, one of our most popular of all time. But I also really think that people should just follow their hearts and go with what appeals to them. The episodes that I enjoy the most are generally episodes where I get someone to a place that I never thought that we would go or that I've never heard them talk about before, especially if they're someone who's done a lot of interviews. So an example I give a lot is Torrey Peters, when she was doing press for *Detransition, Baby*, basically just gave the same interview to every cis interviewer. So I was like, "Okay, she's going to try to hit these five talking points and my goal is to get something new out of her."

([36:20](#)):

But we went to this totally different dimension where she was talking about how it's really important that someone patents estrogen before the bad guys patent estrogen, because basically there's just one estrogen we've all been using, and if we make another one, then that person would have control over all of the estrogen supply for all of the, whatever. I'm butchering it, but the point is-

Ally ([36:40](#)):

Oh my God.

Tuck ([36:41](#)):

You haven't heard her talk about that on NPR? And so afterwards I was like, "Wow, that was so cool." And she was like, "Yeah, well of course because this is for trans people." And there's a lot of people-

Ally ([36:41](#)):

You could start deep.

Tuck ([36:50](#)):

Yeah. A lot of people when they're doing interviews, they'll catch themselves. Alynda Segarra was on the show last season, and there was a lot of stuff there, a musician, they go by Hooray for the Riff Raff. And there was a lot of stuff that they're like, "Yeah, I've shied away from talking about this in interviews, but this is the space where I'm going to work on talking about it because this is the space that it feels comfortable doing that." And we've had people come out on the show before in different ways. Gabe

Dunn did an interview with us when they were cis in huge air quotes, and then came back again once they transitioned and actually used Gender Reveal to come out, which was so funny.

([37:26](#)):

But yeah, it's such a delight to get people who think about this stuff all the time into a space where they're answering questions that they've never been asked before, or thinking about things in new ways, because then if they're having these either new thoughts or thoughts they haven't shared, then we all get to go to a new place with them.

Babette ([37:44](#)):

Exactly. It's such a special space because I feel like, unless you have a trans therapist, you're not even getting there in therapy, I feel like usually.

Tuck ([37:51](#)):

But I feel it's really good to be able to make community where you get to really thrive and have a celebration of our rich beautiful lives instead of just having all of our conversations being like, "Hey, isn't it so weird and bad that nobody wants us to exist?" Instead, creating all this space for people to explore things going on in their lives that they're passionate about or that are fun. Or sometimes they're really, really stupid, and that's also really important. I think there should be more space for trans people to be really stupid. We shouldn't all have to know about endocrinology.

Babette ([38:26](#)):

No, exactly.

Tuck ([38:27](#)):

And history. We should just get to be just dummies.

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

Those are all the questions that I have. Do you have anything to follow up?

Babette ([38:33](#)):

I think that's it too.

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

Yeah?

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

Other than how did you come to the name Montucky Woodsnacks?

Tuck ([38:39](#)):

Oh, there's a regional beer based in Bozeman, Montana called Montucky Cold Snacks, and when I was trying to change my name, I was asking people online for a new name... And that's my cat playing video games in the background. And so I was asking people for a new name, and all of their ideas were

purposefully so bad. And so I was just playing with the worst ones because no one was giving me anything good, just for fun jokes on Twitter. And then I had the funny joke of Montucky Woodsnacks because my name was something kind of similar to Montucky and Woodstock. And I was like, "Hey, that is such a funny joke on my name." And I changed my Twitter display name to Montucky Woodsnacks. And because I was transsexual, cis people got really stressed and was like, "Oh, is that your new name? Should I call you that now?" And I was like, "No, this is a joke about a beer. No, no, no, no."

Ally ([39:36](#)):

Five minutes later.

Tuck ([39:38](#)):

[inaudible 00:39:38] come up with anything better. So I think for six months, Tuck was kind of in the running just because that had happened. And then in May or June, 2020, I had to pick a new name really fast because I was about to be incredibly perceived, and I was like, "I still didn't come up with anything better, so I guess it's my joke name from Twitter. Oops. Uh-oh." And now that's just my name, and my middle name is also a joke, and it turns out that you can just name yourself as series of jokes and legally they can't stop you. So yeah, you can really do anything you want, and if your name just makes you laugh, because you're like, "Wow, it's so funny that that is my legal name." My legal name is Tuck, it's not Montucky, but it's only because my name was so long already that it was just a monstrosity, energetically.

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

Are you from Bozeman?

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

No. Isn't that even funnier? [inaudible 00:40:31] No, but they are having a contest right now where you can pitch why you should be the mascot of Montucky Cold Snacks, and I'm like, I don't know how to make a TikTok, and so it will just be a front facing camera video of me for 30 seconds going, "Hey, I'm a transsexual and I made a joke and now it's my legal name," and we'll see if that wins.

Babette ([40:49](#)):

That's so funny.

Ally ([40:49](#)):

Woodsnacks.

Tuck ([40:53](#)):

There's so many names, obviously, and people stick it out for the perfect name, and sometimes if you stick it out long enough you get there, and sometimes you just have to be like, "Well, it's better than what I had before, and I can always change it again." But a lot of people don't pick their name at all. They just go with what they're given. So anything that's better than what you're given. You're like, "Eh, whatever."

Ally ([41:12](#)):

Absolutely. I think there's so many different ways to be trans, and there is definitely a hyper-Virgo, "I started doing this workout before getting T because I knew..." And you're just like, "Wow, you aced it. Good job. You look so hot and you have the perfect name," but for the rest of us, whatever feels good.

Tuck ([41:34](#)):

Yeah. Exactly. No, totally. I feel like so much of my job is talking to people who are thinking about gender really, really hard, and that's why they're listening to the Gender podcast, and I'm like, "Totally, that was me in 2016, but now I am simply vibing and my advice to you is to stop thinking about it."

Babette ([41:49](#)):

No, exactly. Exactly.

Ally ([41:56](#)):

Tuck is such a light.

Babette ([41:59](#)):

They're so fucking funny.

Ally ([42:00](#)):

They're so funny, but they're really serious in what they're up to. I love that combo.

Babette ([42:06](#)):

Totally.

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

This was our first and I think only episode where you, me and Ira were all in the same room.

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

Yes.

Ally ([42:15](#)):

IRL.

Babette ([42:16](#)):

It was so, so special. I specifically remember, was that my first time meeting you in person? Is that possible?

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

No. No. I think you had come out to LA first or wait, was it? Wait, no, because this was in March.

Babette ([42:32](#)):

No, that was literally the first time I had met you in person, which is crazy.

Ally ([42:36](#)):

These virtual COVID relationships, and then you meet in person and you're like, "Wait, what the fuck?"

Babette ([42:43](#)):

I just remember you in your big ass coat trotting along with an omelet to go, like a to-go container.

Ally ([42:48](#)):

I'm wearing it right now. Yeah, I did stop and get an...

Babette ([42:49](#)):

Yeah, you're wearing the same coat.

Ally ([42:49](#)):

I did stop and get an omelet that I then couldn't eat because we were all miked up. That's-

Babette ([42:56](#)):

So funny.

Ally ([42:57](#)):

The omelet just sat there next to Baxter.

Babette ([42:59](#)):

Yeah, it congealed, and then, when we... I mean, I'll be very brief about this because it still haunts me, but when we left, it was you, me, Ira in the car. You were eating your omelet-

Ally ([42:59](#)):

Baxter, the omelet.

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

Baxter. Yeah, Baxter in the backseat. Your coffee had the lid off of it. We were driving away. I remember every single detail. We were driving away. I literally said I wasn't going to talk about this, but suddenly I'm back.

Ally ([43:28](#)):

Yeah, we're back. We're in the moment. This is a trauma.

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

We're in the moment. And then I made a turn where I almost cut someone off, didn't even fully cut them off, almost cut them off. And this person like drag race... Not Drag Race the show, but drag race like car.

Ally ([43:45](#)):

No, they were lip syncing for their life.

Babette ([43:48](#)):

They were lip syncing for their life. They drove in front of us, stopped off the intersection to yell at us. It was crazy.

Ally ([43:56](#)):

This is a New York City moment of, you're like, "Whoa." Almost a close call. Not even. It was not that dramatic.

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

Your coffee didn't even spill.

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

No, literally.

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

Your coffee didn't spill.

Ally ([44:05](#)):

My open face coffee in someone else's car didn't even spill. I'm really having a reflective moment about what I bring into my life and the lives of others. But yeah, this car skids out, hard U-turn to follow us, and yells at us.

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

And blocks the intersection-

Ally ([44:24](#)):

And blocks the intersection.

Babette ([44:25](#)):

... behind us and then kicks our car. And then we drop Ellie off, and then right after that, someone sideswipes me too. And so I was just literally shaking. I was just like, "I just want to go home." I hate driving in New York, and so now I never drive in New York rush hour. I can't do it.

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

Yeah. I don't think-

Babette ([44:45](#)):

It was so crazy.

Ally ([44:47](#)):



I've maybe been in literally three cars in all the time that I've spent in New York, and it's always to go to the beach. I am just like, these cars disappear forever, and then they just reappear when you need to get to the beach.

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

No, exactly.

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

It's like a friend of a friend of a friend's car.

Babette ([45:03](#)):

No, exactly. That's the New York experience.

Ally ([45:03](#)):

Yeah.

([45:06](#)):

Well, this was our final interview of the season. We still have a couple more things I think that we're going to record, but this was it. This was the final guest.

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

Wait, I'm not being a dramatic. I can feel my eyes tearing up just a little.

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

I know. I know.

Babette ([45:23](#)):

Just a tiny bit. Just a tiny bit. Just because... Uh, you know?

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

Sorry.

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

No, that's all I had to say. Like, uh, wow.

Ally ([45:34](#)):

Yeah. I'm so curious what this season was like for you. Maybe that should be a whole, its own thing because I almost want to interview each other and be like, "Did you get what you were looking for out of this project so far?"

Babette ([45:47](#)):

Yes. No, I think that needs to just be the next episode basically.

Ally ([45:51](#)):

Yeah.

Babette ([45:52](#)):

Because I feel like in summary, maybe what I got out of this season is gender is still non-linear as fuck for me and still this amorphous thing. And I don't know if we're ever going to get to the center of the spiral. It's just constantly spinning, and that's why there's going to be a season two baby.

Ally ([46:13](#)):

There's going to be a season 45. Wake up.

Babette ([46:16](#)):

Yeah. We can just always keep spinning out about this same thing, and that hasn't changed for me. So I don't know. What about you? If you could give a brief sneak peek of what this season has been like for you, what would you say?

Ally ([46:28](#)):

Yeah, I feel like I was looking for answers of what other people were up to and inspiration in that way. And I was eating dinner with a friend last night, and they are a therapist, and they were talking about parents of trans kids, and this kind of, I don't know, unspoken rule where it's like, do your own research, do a little bit of your own research before talking to me. And they were just saying how dangerous it is for parents to be doing trans research on their own on the internet and how quickly that gets into turf territory. And I was like, "Oh my gosh. You're right." For how labor intensive it is, we do need to be involved in the education of each other and of cis people.

Babette ([46:28](#)):

It's true.

Ally ([47:13](#)):

And I'm like, "Oh yeah, I really hope that this is one of those kinds of things that someone can find or listen to because it's across the board only trans people speaking about their own experience."

Babette ([47:28](#)):

Totally. Totally.

([47:36](#)):

Gender Spiral is an original podcast from Ideation. This episode was mixed by Matt Noble, the music is composed by Chanell Crichlow, with art by Joey Han, and graphics by Honey Hodges. The show's executive produced by Ireland Meacham, myself, Babette Thomas, and my co-host, Ally Beardsley, and Sandy Smallens, with additional story editing by me.

([47:58](#)):

Thank you so much to our guest, Tuck Woodstock, not only for doing this interview, but for being so supportive of us and sharing this little amazing corner of the podcast and internet world about gender.

Please check out Gender Reveal wherever you get your podcast. It is such an amazing and trailblazing show, and follow Tuck on Instagram. You can find their handle on the show notes. And also I think, well, no, it doesn't go without saying. I was going to say it goes without saying, but this is a pro-Palestine podcast. Palestine will be free from the river to the sea. Free Palestine.

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

Free Palestine.

Babette ([48:36](#)):

That's really all it is.

Ally ([48:42](#)):

If you like the show, please head over to [patreon.com/genderspiral](https://patreon.com/genderspiral) podcast to support us.

Babette ([48:47](#)):

You can also check us out at [genderspiralpod.com](https://genderspiralpod.com) where you'll find the 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

Ally ([48:58](#)):

And follow us on Instagram. It's @GenderSpiral. We have a couple more episodes left this season, so subscribe wherever you get your podcast to stay tuned. And tune in next week to Gender Spiral.

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

Where you never have to spiral alone.

Ally ([49:11](#)):

Oh!

Babette ([49:15](#)):

Exactly. Yes.

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

That was Clem, Clem's solo.

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

Aw!