

## REUBS WALSH

*Clare (C) interviewing Reubs (R)*

### **Extract 1: 00.43 – 2.32**

#### GROWING UP QUEER AND TRANS. LGCM (LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT)

R: ... all queers say this when they talk about their childhood, I was always different, and I think a lot of the ... a lot of the ways in which I experienced being different had more to do with being on the autism spectrum than with being queer and trans, but they're quite hard to separate out, they're just all different bits of me, and so ... yeah, so I guess, erm ... then when I got to sort of Sixth form age I started going to the theatre a lot. I came out as gay, which later on in the story turns out not to be quite accurate. Erm ... but yes, I came out as gay and my ... actually my first and only ever girlfriend and I (*laughs*) ... went almost every week to see theatre production ... there was a charity that ... that gave really, really, cheap tickets to like teenagers to go to the theatre so ... so we went really really frequently, and I think I became very invested in the idea of queer culture and I got ... I got very itchy feet, I wanted to move, I wanted to move to London, actually, to be honest, I sort of had it in my head that London was where all the queers were because I went to YLGC which is the sort of youth contingent of LGCM. LGCM stands for Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. YLGC – young lesbian and gay Christians, and it doesn't really ... YLGC doesn't really exist anymore.

### **Extract 2: 54.13 – 56.28**

#### TRANS PEOPLE AT WORK. THOUGHTS ON BINARY GENDER DEFINITIONS.

R: There's a reason why trans people tend to have a lot of qualifications and not very much employment. You know, you have to be somebody who thinks a lot to realise that you're trans in an environment where everywhere is telling you that there's no such thing. But as soon as you come out you become ... your experiences make it hard for you to cope in a work environment and you become an unattractive prospect to a lot of employers. I mean, to take science as, you know, as the obvious example, obvious in that that's where I work. You know, or ... actually I'll tell you a better example, when I worked at NHS 111 ... I, you know, I was answering phones and helping people to find the right service for their health problem, and for the first few calls I took, people called me Sir, which was weird because I was sort of expecting to be calling them Sir, but people called me Sir and you know, at one time there was a woman who told me, who said you know "Are you comfortable talking about this, would you rather that I spoke to a woman?" And I was like "Well, you are speaking to a woman!" And erm, you know, it was thrush. It wasn't like a big ... Like I've had thrush. Almost everyone has thrush at

some point, right? But, but anyway, so, but it really, it ground me down because I was really aware of being misunderstood by every single caller, and you know, and every single caller, you know, I had to gender them, based on their voice. It was part of my job to gender the callers based on their voice, because the very first thing that you do, whilst you're saying "Can I take your telephone number" you're also clicking one of the gender buttons. Which is completely ... is very clinically unsafe when you think that about three percent of the population aren't simplistically one thing or the other. Or they are simplistically one thing or the other, but they're not the thing that they sound like.

**Extract 3: 1:21.47 – 1: 24.47**

THOUGHTS ON PRIDE.

R: ... coming to Pride, and my paternal grandparents and my mum came with me to my first ever Pride which was in London. I marched with Christians Together at Pride, and I'm now on the organising committee for that, and – in a big purple wig! Erm, and er, and that was ... that was transformative for me and, you know, and singing 'Yes Jesus Loves You' at the top of my lungs as we walked past the homophobes with the big white yellow plaques saying we're going to hell, and sort of throwing glitter in the air and ... It was just absolutely incredible experience and just such a ... so empowering and deeply spiritual as well because, you know, we were singing worship songs and ... and telling people God loved them, and so then sort of, again ... again it's the dirty politics of the thing, and it makes me worried. I ... I just ... I think each year Pride has got less and less inclusive actually, since my first Pride in London and last year ... felt unusually trans inclusive, actually ... Just in terms of the mood. I didn't know – I didn't go to the main stage. Well I did, actually. I went to the main stage, but the only trans person I know for sure who was on the main stage, not counting Conchita Worst who isn't trans, erm was Sharon, who got up to say basically 'By the way, God loves you and the homophobes are wrong.'

And actually I ... but the ... everybody just stopped ... everybody just went to buy another drink kind of, when the person with the dog collar got up and I just thought "Do you know like ... in some ways, you know, 20 years ago, if someone with a dog collar had gotten up on at the stage at Pride to say that there would have been, you would have heard a pin drop." And it just makes me sad that we've got a place now where the Christian Right have constructed the debate whereby, you know, it's like I was saying earlier, it's ... it's the rights of faith versus the rights of queerness, as if there's no such thing as a queer person of faith, and again, you know, the ... the right to marry is pitted against the right to self-determination of gender and the right to own your body.