

TONY MALONE

Extract 1: 6.34 – 10.47

LGBT ORGANISATIONS DESIGN: SCHOOLS OUT. LGBT HISTORY MONTH. LONDON GAY MENS CHORUS. KING CROSS STEELERS.

T: ... looking as a designer, you know, at the London gay organisations, a lot of the logos weren't up to scratch. They didn't represent the companies that well, and so I approached, I can't remember which one I did first, I think it was Schools Out, it was an organisation run by Sue Saunders and Paul Patrick, and I said "Look, I like what you're doing, I really sort of believe in getting the word out to schools but can I look at your communications design, obviously free of charge" and that was it. Started sort of working locally with a lady who I didn't realise was quite so famous at the time, called Linda Bellos, who used to live just round the corner in Nunhead, and we'd met at some LGBT event and give each others lift home, and Linda and her partner, Caroline Jones were running Equality and Diversity programmes, and it matched up with my passion for getting – if you're going to produce a poster or if you're going to produce a piece of artwork how can somebody who's blind see this? Or how can somebody who's visually impaired see this? And in the same way applying that logic to, you know, "How, if you're going to produce a poster for the Home Office ..."

We did a lot of domestic violence information ... I used to do a lot of work with an organisation called Broken Rainbow, and we used to produce posters and information leaflets that were targeting the LGBT community but in a way that wasn't ... so there wasn't rainbows plastered on everything, and there wasn't talking as a straight organisation to a gay person or a lesbian person, it was about actually using their language and coming across as, you know "We understand" and that led on to doing quite a successful work with the Met Police.

After the London bombings we did a lot with the Muslim community, erm, in sort of terms of doing information design that wasn't going to be offensive to members of the Muslim community, asking them for help and assistance in sort of intelligence work or in bringing er, people to justice if they felt that they were overstepping the lines of their religion. But also alongside that we was working with the police on various aspects of their hate crime campaigns on ... around LGBT work and really making sure that any information or leaflets they sent out was as a complimentary, or as positive light for the LGBT community, rather than the usual negative that they used to send out. It was quite exciting stuff.

C: Any other groups that you worked with?

T: Yeah, we ... because after doing work with Sue – Sue introduced me to this idea she had for LGBT History Month which was ... is now quite a successful project, and they had a logo for it which I instantly said "Look, let me loose on this"! And I did the core logo for LGBT History Month, which is the one they launched with fortunately, and I did the ... each year the idea was that they would change a new logo, and I think I did the first three or four years of LGBT History Month logos and identity and branding.

Also did the ... a rather nice logo for the London Gay Men's Chorus, and we did lots of information design for them. Again it was part of a sponsorship project that my design studio was doing. It was great fun. We had a logo that was all based on multi-coloured heads in a choral formation and you could just sort of take samples of it or adapt it to shape so that it would fit nicely on T-shirts or performances. But it was inspired by seeing them on stage en masse, where you've got all these sort of faces singing and it was the idea of sort of lifting that and playing around with the colours and the ideas that you could have from it. Briefly did some design work with the Kings Cross Steelers Rugby Club, again that was a new ... it was an update of their old logo just to make it a bit more modern.

C: Are they gay?

T: Yes it's a ... Kings Cross Steelers are the ... I think there's another one now, but they were at the time the only um, openly gay rugby team in the UK. I believe there's about three or four now, and another one in London.

Extract 2: 12.27 – 16.51

BEING GAY and WANTING KIDS

I had a very hard time in my head coming to terms with my sexuality because, er, I quite liked children. I had this huge thing that I would want my own kids one day. Family wise, at the same time that I was coming out and having that, my mum had a younger brother, and that sort of took the ... took the parental feelings that I had of thinking "Oh, do you know, I want my own kids, I want my own kids." It took a lot of that burden off me and I spent a lot of time with young little Shaun. Over the few years there I used to take days off work to go and babysit him and walk him round Greenwich Park, I think when he was four years old. I was a member of the Southwark LGBT Network and it's a network that's designed for LGBT people to meet up away from the scene, so it's less threatening, more social. So instead of going out to gay bars and night clubs we'd meet in the Southwark pottery café and all have coffee and paint mugs! It was a little bit more of a quirky mix but it was good fun, and because I had Shaun certain days of the week whilst Mum was at work, I took Shaun along to things, so Shaun done his first Pride float when he was four with me and promptly waving at everybody and fell asleep, so I went the whole pride with a four year old sitting on my lap asleep! That was ... it was quite good fun. Mum found it fun, she loved the photos, and she's never been afraid of exposing any of my brothers, I've got Terry and Shaun, to anything like that, so it was a good ... it was a good adventure.

And Shaun's father died I think in 2009 or 10, and that really completed my sort of need for ... for children myself because I sort of slipped naturally into the father role, and I still take Shaun off on adventures and he still comes traipsing around London with me, and we go off to various events. If I'm doing a talk somewhere I'll often have Shaun with me, if it's a day that he's off school and I think ... it's quite good fun, but for me one of the big was actually kids, that was a big decision maker in erm ... accepting my sexuality. Not necessarily determining it, but certainly accepting it. Now he's older obviously, I'm working with the

Scouts so I'm sort of moving on to having that father figure, but for more children! Which is good fun.

C: Did you think then "I don't want to be gay because it means I can't have children?" I mean, was it ... that your thinking?

T: I think it was certainly ... it wasn't the case so much with denial. I never went down the route of er, denying my sexuality. I think I ... I think I'm quite an open person, and I think that openness applies to myself as well so I think that I knew I was gay. I think I knew I was gay since I was about nine years old, and I had a crush on the boy that lived next door. But I've always been quite accepting of myself in that, but it was the issue that I'd grown up in a household where there was younger children around and I'd grown up in a situation where I was often the babysitter with other people's kids, and I actually quite like the interaction of working with youngsters. For me that was quite a hard thing, it was actually realising that I wouldn't have that of my own and, at the time, adopting as a gay man just wasn't an option, and erm, I just sort of in my head kind of sealed all that off and that was it. Shaun made it a lot easier. He's been a huge influence on me.

C: And what about being a donor or something, did that ever cross your mind?

T: It didn't cross my mind at all! Erm ... I ... I think if I'd have thought of it I may have looked into it more seriously but erm, I ... I was always sort of secretly envious of other people who had that, that had the children and the sexuality balance. At the time I just couldn't see how to make that work in my head.

Extract 3: 9.29 – 10.38

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION and LESBIAN AND GAY SCOUT LEADERS

One of the things which I think the Scout Association's been very astute at is realising that there are a lot of gay men and lesbian women, like myself, who wanted kids, and I think without sounding egotistic, I think that makes us very good youth workers, and the Scout Association has got it. They understand that. They know how they can help us and support us in doing that and they know how that can benefit the kids. As a rule, gay men have probably more disposable time. They've got more disposable income, the same with lesbians as well. You've got that disparity. You haven't got a family of your own with kids, usually ... obviously it's not in every case, and it's a way of actually saying "OK, we've not got enough Scout leaders but some of these LGBT ones can come in as Scout leaders, that meets far more than the requirements needed" and erm ... we're starting to get Scouts coming out at younger ages because they feel comfortable.