

Oral History Project Interview Transcription

Interviewee:	Elle Kennedy, Female	Interviewer:	Ten Harber, Female
Date of Interview:	06/02/2013	Track Number:	1; 00.21 - 13.56
Main Topic	Place & Culture: Transgenderism, and transitioning in Brighton.		

Time	Content
Track 1	
00.21 – 01.47	Erm, I came to Brighton in 2010 to start erm University, erm I study Fashion and Dress History erm and I also came to Brighton to erm transition erm into a lady, erm and Brighton seemed a very appropriate plae to do that. Erm, possibly the best place to do that. Erm so I came to uni erm in drab, kind of, erm still presenting myself as a male, and I transitioned in my first year of uni erm and since, erm the beginning of 2011 I've lived full time in my erm acquired gender identity, my correct gender identity. Erm. And Brighton's been very supportive in that erm I've had hassle like you would expect kind of thing but erm genrally speaking is been very supportive and very I don't know, there's a good trans community here, and there's good erm, I have'nt luckily needed it but there's a good kind of mental health services that kind of thing, and there's kind of, I been told there's kind of like supportive groups and things erm, erm yeah.
01.47 – 02.02	*edit out interviewer question*

02.02 – 03.33	<p>Erm , well I I had come to terms with the fact that erm I was going to transition, erm a few years before, and and I went to london for a year to study before that, and found it rather kind of stressful, and I was living in, I don't, I was living in like east london, I didn't really have any hassle or anything but it wasn't you know, its not, it wouldn't be a great place to transition, erm and id have friends who'd come to Brighton years before and I'd had many a good night out in Brighton, and I was familiar with it basically yeah. So it seemed like a very appropriate place to come. Erm, and to a degree kind of erm to a degree it has it has fulfilled my expectations of being a very safe and supportive place and at other times its been kind of rather, you know disappointing, erm about how kind of rough it can be, how unsupportive it can be, for example I wouldn't go down west street erm, but you know I go you know I go to straight clubs, gay clubs whatever but I wouldn't touch anywhere around west street, erm unless I was with a big group of friends, erm I probably still wouldn't want be there erm, yeah, and like I like going in clubbing in brighton, erm with sort of gay male friends, predominantly.</p>
03.33 – 03.34	*edit out interviewer question*
03.34 – 05.38	<p>Oh it's so embaessing *laughs* erm, well we kind of, we usually start in kemptown, erm just any, we usually kind of like try to go to the nicer pubs in kemptown, erm sidewinder, whats it called, kemptown house or something? I think there's like a b&b upstairs, erm and then maybe some of the like older pubs around there, and then when we're a bit pissed, we go to erm the queen's arms, and massacre some kareoke, and then erm *laughs* and then might go down erm might go down to legends or somewhere like that, erm, but usually we go to erm revenge, erm which is good fun, and good atmosphere, very kind of like uninhibited, and its cheap, and the drinks are cheap, and you can get drinks bought for you and they sell poppers, which is everything you need in a club. Erm, and er sometimes we go to haunt, erm they've got a good night on Thursdays called coconut college erm which is very kind of lgbt friendly erm but I tend to go there more with sort of straight friends erm, and er coalition occasionally the tube occassionally, digital – pound dance on Wednesdays if we're broke, and its still great, erm yeah and then like I live up by elm grove so sometimes we go to the cornerstone or the hartington or overpriced yummy mummy lunch, and yeah and then sort of shopping and things er, just well I kind of buy most of my clothes online but you've got kind of dirty harrys and and that's laines, erm churchill square, kemptowns got some good charity shops and erm we make a point of going to the sussex beacon quite a lot, erm, because er they support causes first of all.</p>
05.38 – 05.44	*edit out interviewer question*

05.44 – 06.33	Erm, I've found some I've I've got a nice er lime green vintage bomber jacket that I found there, erm, but er my erm I say I go quite a lot, my kind of er partner in crime erm my sort of like best brighton friend, erm, someone called luke, erm he's obsessed with the er lgbt books section erm, yeah, so I'm less eduacted to kind of all that sort of thing, but er, he tells me its very good for that sort of thing so yeah, and they sell records and things, we've got a record player in our house so, we find a lot of er tacky 90's dance and disco classics.
06.33 – 06.37	*edit out interviewer question*
06.37 – 06.57	They've got oads of grace jones albums in there, erm womac and womad, and then kind of erm you know culture club and all that crap, you know so yeah then some more kind of like house stuff that we listen to sometimes for pre-drinks in my house, yeah.
06.57 – 07.06	*edit out interviewer question*
07.06 – 07.44	Ok well we go occassionally to the queen's arms, and its er it's a tiny little pub and er theres a very nice old drag queen on stage hosts er kareoke most weekends, and erm drinks are cheap and it's a lovely atmosphere and er their very, its one of a few places that erm I don't know like, they've got so much good crap pop on their on their er you know, kareoke machine, so you know its heaven really *laughs* and
07.44 – 07.46	*edit out interviewer question*
07.46 – 08.17	Oh I don't know, I think a bit of whitfield, Saturday night, that's the last thing we sang down there, erm, I didn't, I think we sang atomic kitten once, feeling quite sadistic that week, erm, think maddona material girl has come out, yeah you know the usual fluff. So none of the trendy music. we get our cheesy fix in somewhere like that and then go go to essential or the trendy music.
08.17 – 08.21	*edit out interviewer question*
08.21 – 09.16	Erm well im usually quite pissed, erm, but I feel very yeah I don't know its very much a brightonian experience erm and theres actually quite surprising groups of people, theres quite a lot of straight couples in there, erm I go with straight couples as well who feel its very welcoming in there kind of thing, its not one of those places where its kind of exclusively you know erm lgbt erm I've been turned away from erm a club called sublime before I've gone there with a load of erm gay guys and been told I havent been allowed to come in so I think you have to be topless and hairy to get in there but erm you know that's fine erm, yeah and theres I don't know, you get like quite a few trans people in legends actually, erm, which
09.16 – 09.17	*edit out interviewer question*
09.17 – 09.35	we rarely kind of go to legends but when we do its just very you know, its kind of like an older crowd and theres get sort of like gaggles of trans girls in there kind of having a dance and everything its kind of like a nice atmosphere, nice atmosphere

09.35 – 09.39	*edit out interviewer question*
09.39 – 09.56	I ended up there on haloween erm, I don't know I suppose it's a good memory, they've got the big club downstairs, so yeah good atmosphere cheap drinks, nice vibes good toilets, which is always important
09.56 – 09.57	*edit out interviewer question*
09.57 – 10.08	Erm, you can go in there with like 5 other people and do make-up, and er I think theyre unisex erm which is nice,
10.08 – 10.10	*edit out interviewer question*
10.10 – 10.48	Erm, I just got, I it's not really important to me I just I don't kind of get, oh I don't know I suppose in a straight club you do have single sex toilets but I don't really get the need for it yeah I don't you know I prefer unisex toilets especially throughout when your with a gay boy and you all want to go to the toilet together whatever and have a wee and have a chat *laughs* erm yeah, revenge has got appualing toilets by the way if they hear yeah, and so has the haunt actually
10.48 – 10.57	*edit out interviewer question*
10.57 – 11.34	Erm, most memorable ones, er ive seen, I've seen loads of people perform the night thete but I cant think or really recall them, I don't know just kind of I don't know you can be, you can really go for it in revenge, you can really just let your hair down and everyone in there knows what they're getting if that makes sense, you know its kind of tacky, you know its gross, but you just make the most of it and enjoy yourself, erm you know, you know it can be quite grim the people can be quite grim and bitchy on occasion but,
11.34 – 11.37	*edit out interviewer question*
11.37 – 13.04	Er, yeah, well I've had lovely people in there as well but I've got like attacked by some one in there once, some one yanked me like tried to yank like my hair out, I think they thought I was wearing a wig or something which I was not, erm, so which I got yanked my hair in there kind of thing erm and people an get quite pushy in there erm I don't know I think, maybe there's I don't know its kind of it can be very sort of bulshy kind of thing erm and I like, don't know its revenge is revenge is very different I think revenge is good and that its not so cheesy that you don't want to avoid it you know its not so cheesy that ou wanna avoid it but at the same time erm just thinking you know london, got kind of very kind of fashiony sort of gay pubs and night room service and all of that kind of thing which are all great erm but I don't know theres something a bit more kind of a bit messy and cheesy about a brighton night erm that can be quite fun when oure in the mood for it erm and theres theres a real mix of people in revenge as well , erm which is always nice, you can always spot the straight boys looking lost on the danefloor, huddled in the corner erm, yeah, you know ripe pickings!
13.04 – 13.07	*edit out interviewer question*

13.07 – 13.56	Erm, do you know the music in revenge is mad, like, you know they'll play the usual chart crap and upstairs they play you know the more sort of heavy techno stuff but sometimes in revenge they just play the most bizzare the most bizarre stuff, I was there last week and they just started playing like old school jungle and garage and stuff, you know just insane congress but erm it worked, its was fine, erm, and they always play the erm spice girls erm spice up your life the olympic closing ceremony version so you get to hear the er beeps and everything *laughs* which is yeah particularly er awful but love it sometimes think yeah
13.56	END OF TRANSCRIPTION

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