LGBTQ+ MAGAZINE
FRESHERS
SEPT 25

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letter from the EDITOR

Dear Planorama readers,

This entire issue is dedicated to all of the queer freshers joining us at Warwick this September! We're so excited to have you here, and can't wait to uplift your queer, creative, and unique voice through our magazine.

A quick introduction to Planorama- we are Warwick PLAN's LGBTQ+ magazine, created by, and for, queer students on campus. PLAN (Professional LGBTQ+ and Allies Network) is a society committed to preparing and empowering queer students for their future careers, while supporting them with fun, friendship, and professionalism while they study at university!

This edition contains a range of work- from our guide to LGBTQ+ freshers week, to examining the ramifications of internal party politics for trans* people in the UK- it has something to interest every queer fresher, or oldie (like myself), no matter their passions!

This year, you can even bring your Planorama magazine to pres, and use our interactive game to "Get F*cked Up!" with your new queer friends at university!

But in all seriousness, this edition holds the heart of the LGBTQ+ community at Warwick, with beautiful poetry and artwork about queer belonging, a collage created of submissions by our readers, and insight into life as a queer person at both our university, and the wider world.

This freshers edition, remember that as a queer person you always have a thriving community here at Warwick- whether this is your first time reading, or you're a long-time contributor.

We can't wait to see more of you all this upcoming year- I am so grateful to you incredible readers, and the amazing Planorama team, for bringing this edition to life.

Always sincerely,

mayumi

Your Editor-in-Chief

PLANORAMA

You might've noticed something different around here... that's right! Planorama's glow-up continues with the debut of our new logo!

More than a logo, it's a badge of who we are and what we stand for. The circular design is a nod to sticker-and-pin student culture. Leaning into strong cutout shapes, dynamic typography, and striking contrast, it's a symbol of Planorama's roots as a queer student magazine.

To spotlight our new identity, we've featured it as the core of this edition's cover. We also incorporated a photo sourced from Warwick's photo archives, an homage to the vision of last year's Planorama design team. Never one to follow the norms and traditions of magazine design (and as an homage to our love of double page spreads), we made the cover a wraparound composition that reveals itself when opened. This is our love letter to print design and pushing boundaries.

But that's just the latest in a series of major design changes (including our national award-winning redesign last year, and our refreshed social media feed this summer). For my team, design isn't just colours and fonts; it's a canvas where queer student culture can be truly expressed.

In your hands, you hold the result of endless Pinterest boards, design brainstorms, and (unnecessarily) heated debates over font pairings. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the incredibly talented design team at Planorama. We hope you love reading it as much as we loved being a part of creating it!

diya

Head of Design

on design

OPENING UP WARWICK'S QUEER CALENDAR

HELLO AND WELCOME!

There's a good chance that you'll be reading this article during Welcome Week, a time to really get stuck into queer events on campus. The beginning of the academic year is always an exciting time, and it's important to pace yourself while also taking advantage of the opportunities you're given to build community, whether it's with ones you've already developed or new interactions with people. Since I know from my experience at uni, as a now third-year student, how important this has been for my sense of belonging, I'm aiming to dive into the beginning of the queer calendar at Warwick, and I'm bringing you right along with me.

LGBTQ+ SOCIETIES

In terms of LGBTQ+ societies, keep an eye out for Warwick Pride, Warwick Trans* Society and, of course, Warwick PLAN and Planorama. Over freshers' week, there will be a chance to introduce (or reintroduce!) yourself to the different events each society hosts, and I'd thoroughly recommend attending as many different events as you can manage while taking care of yourself and your energy. Take time to relax and adjust to the space around you in your own time. However, a key part of enjoying university is putting yourself out there and experiencing the diversity of students at Warwick. Here, I'll give a brief introduction to each society as well as what to expect from freshers' week events and beyond, but I'd suggest speaking to them at the societies fair and elsewhere to get a feel for what you're interested in.

PLANORAMA

Firstly, let's start with Planorama! The group behind the fantastic magazine you're reading right now, Planorama, is an offshoot of PLAN society that focuses specifically on publishing termly magazine issues. If you're interested in writing for this space, make sure to drop into an event this term! Or if you're feeling nervous, check out @warwickplanorama on Instagram to see pitch information and get access to the writer's WhatsApp chat. In freshers' week, Planorama will be hosting a **queer zine (mini magazine) making session** on **Wednesday at 3:30pm in R1.03**. No need to bring any material, just rock up and take part! There will also be a **picnic** to meet the team on **Saturday at midday on Windmill Hill** (which is the field to your left if you're walking towards the Sports Centre) as well as a **magazine drop-in** on **Sunday at 2:00pm in R0.14**. Make sure to come along if you're interested in writing or creating!

Wednesday 1 October
3:30pm
QUEER ZINE MAKING
R1.03

Saturday 4 October
Midday
PICNIC
Windmill Hill

Sunday 5 October
2pm
MAGAZINE DROP-IN
R0.14

Monday 29 September
6pm
MEET THE EXEC
S0.08

Friday 3 October
7pm
BAR TOUR
Terrace Bar

WARWICK PLAN

Planorama is Warwick PLAN's magazine - but what actually is Warwick PLAN? PLAN stands for Professional LGBTQ+ and Allies Network, and as a society, PLAN events cater to both the queer social scene and queer careers in order to promote authenticity for queer people in the workplace. Thanks to their sponsors, PLAN hosts some big events across the year, including Drag Race, where members of Warwick societies compete in a drag competition for a queer charity. Always a highlight of the year! And I personally have to drop in a mention for National Student Pride in London as someone who was on the organising committee last year: PLAN usually hosts a domestic tour to go for the weekend, and it's a great balance of interesting panels and plenty of fun on nights out! At freshers' week, PLAN will be hosting a **meet the exec** on **Monday at 6:00pm in S0.08** and a **bar tour** starting on campus in **Terrace Bar at 7:00pm on Friday** and then moving into Leamington Spa. Keep an eye out for @warwickplansociety for details on Term 1 events, including **Queer Career Series**, which contains advice for all university years.

Tuesday 30 September
2pm
MEET THE EXEC
S0.18

Friday 3 October
ZINES WORKSHOP
OC0.04

Warwick Pride is a more general society focusing on the queer community, hosting a packed calendar throughout the year with events for both specific groups and the queer community as a whole. Pride will be hosting a **meet the exec** on **Tuesday from 2:00-4:00pm in S0.18** and a **zines workshop** on **Friday in OC0.04**. Throughout Term 1 and the wider year, there will be plenty of variety in events, such as welfare coffee sessions, games nights, and walks. And if you're looking for a queer night out, look no further than **Euphoria**, a club night run by students, for students. This term it'll be on **Weeks 3 and 7 on Friday**!

PRIDE

trans*

If you identify as part of the trans* community, Warwick Trans* Society hosts more specific liberation events for both education and community-building purposes. The asterisk represents all trans identities across the non-binary and binary spectrum, and as a relatively new society, their events have involved focusing on student activism, book/film club sessions and open mic nights as well as social events. Make sure to keep a lookout for their freshers' week events and for events across Term 1, especially for **Trans Awareness Week, 13-19 November 2025**, and **Trans Day of Remembrance** on **20 November**.

13-19 November
TRANS AWARENESS WEEK

20 November
TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SOCIETY

Over Summer, I've been lucky enough to attend both London Pride on Saturday 5 July and London Trans Pride on Saturday 26 July. As someone from a small town in the middle of Southampton and Portsmouth that never ended up attending a pride festival before coming to university, having the chance to attend and even march in both events, first with National Student Pride and second with friends, gave incredible weight to the impact of visibility and support to the young people I saw watching, and also my inner younger self. I never dreamed I'd see so many queer adults simply existing joyously in life, and also crowds of people purposefully coming out to support multiple communities. Without attending queer events with other queer people, I never would've had the courage to live authentically at university, and finding my people at Warwick has truly changed my life. Whether you've already begun developing your community, or you're seeking it out, I'm hoping you'll have lots of warmth and belonging in your year ahead.

BY HARRI PAGET

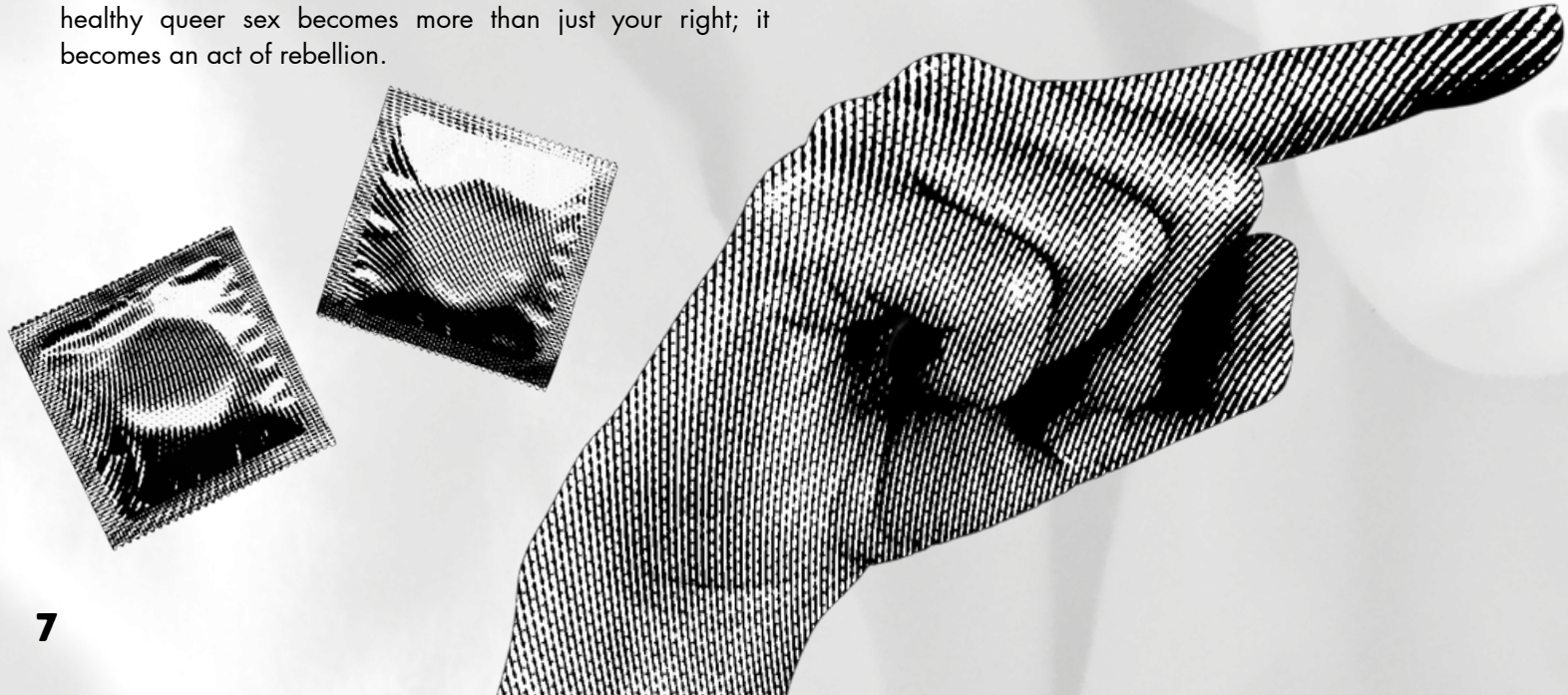
GROUP SHOT
SWAP YOUR TOP
RHYME
BEST DRESSED
GIVE 4
PIERCING TAX
MOST SOBER
SMOKERS
MAKE A RULE
TRUTH OR DARE
2 TRUTHS 1 LIE
NEIGHBOURS DRINK
LOWEST BATTERY
BOAT RACE
SWAP YOUR TOP
DRINK WATER
MOST SOBER
F*CK MARRY KILL
CUFFED
WATER FALL
GIVE 2
TATTOO TAX

SINGLES
CHUG
MAKE A RULE
BEST DANCER
GIVE 3
DRINK WATER
SAME COLOURED UNDIES
TRUTH OR DARE
BOAT RACE
NEIGHBOURS DRINK
GROUP SHOT
SMOKERS
RADIO CHECK
MAKE A RULE
2 TRUTHS 1 LIE
START
USE A SMALL OBJECT (EG BOTTLECAP, RING, £1 COIN) AS YOUR PIECE
RADIO CHECK
GROUP SHOT
RHYME
F*CK MARRY KILL
TRUTH OR DARE
WATER FALL

SAFE SEX IS SEXY!

If your secondary school was anything like mine, queerness was probably no more than an afterthought when it came to sex ed. I was taught: 'gay people exist', and 'maybe we shouldn't hate gay people', and was then returned to the heteronormative curriculum which gave me very few resources that I can actually apply as a lesbian. Sure, I can put a condom on a dildo, but I was never taught what a dental dam is, let alone how to use one safely. The barriers that queer kids face are astronomical, but one often overlooked is the gap in comprehensive sex education that empowers young people to make safe and healthy choices. If we go back in queer history to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the importance of safe queer sex ed is transformed into a greater political necessity when a lack of one led to the decimation of our communities. In that context, practicing safe and healthy queer sex becomes more than just your right; it becomes an act of rebellion.

But where are you even supposed to begin when tackling such a taboo topic? Even vanilla, cisgendered, heterosexual sex still faces a cloud of mysticism over it in mainstream society. There are millions of cis-hets trying to navigate the world of their body and sexuality, even with an education in their favour, so where does that leave us queers? Often, we end up in locked rooms, under the cover of night, on incognito browsers trying to get whatever bizarre scraps of information we're able to find. The issues that this method produces, however, are a myriad of often dangerous misconceptions. Too many times, I've seen queer kids believing that 'lesbians can't catch HIV from sex' (they can), or that 'trans men on HRT can't get pregnant' (HRT is not a reliable form of birth control), and many others.

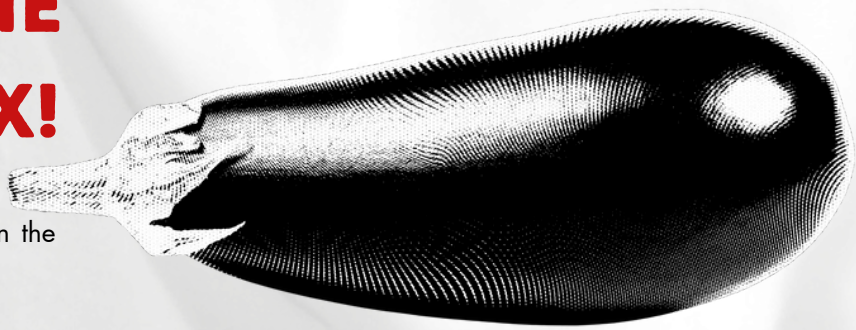


But this shame around queer sex and queer bodies doesn't have to be present. For too long our community & the sexual aspects of queerness have been shunned into the darkest corners in the closet of society's taboos, and we need to put a stop to it. Sex doesn't have to be this dark, mysterious, thing that we tip-toe around, whispering out of fear of saying the word too loudly.

SEX IS FUN! SEX IS BEAUTIFUL! AND SAFE SEX IS THE BEST KIND OF SEX!

You have nothing to lose from trying to be informed on the topic.

There are plenty of resources around you on campus. The pharmacy in the Atrium building offers walk-in consultations on a range of health issues, including your sexual health. There are also walk-in sexual health clinics in both Coventry and Leamington, with their addresses and opening times available on 'The Sexual Health Hub' website. These clinics offer a wide range of vital services including STI testing, contraception, STI treatment, PrEP & PEP medication, HIV treatment, HPV vaccinations and more. There is also plenty of peer support available on campus as well, such as FetishSoc (@warwickfetsoc on Instagram) offering a place to learn more about kink in a safe & healthy way, or Sexpression (@sexpression.warwick on Instagram) which offers a myriad of services to you including workshops, STI & HIV tests, and are committed to queer & trans inclusive sex ed.



It's important to remember that shame is just as dangerous as ignorance when it comes to your sexual health, as it's shame which stops people reaching out and getting necessary advice and treatment. Regardless of what sexual health services you reach out to get, you shouldn't feel any embarrassment from it. Whether you're accessing contraception, abortion care, STI screening, HIV treatment, or anything else, you should feel empowered to take care of your body & your sexual partners. So go be queer, go explore, go be safe, and

HAVE SOME GREAT SEX.

BY SYDNEE LEAVER

WHAT THE GREEN PARTY'S LEADERSHIP ELECTION MEANS FOR

In August, the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) held their annual internal elections - including the contested vote for party leader. For those not affiliated with the Greens, hearing this may seem like hardly relevant internal party politics; however, this has had major implications for not only transgender people in the party, but the community here, at Warwick, as a whole.

[Before the release of the election results]

It came as a surprise to many when Carla Denyer, the current Green co-leader, announced she wasn't running for re-election this year. What surprised even more people was Deputy Leader Zack Polanski's shock leadership bid on an "eco-populist" platform. Ellie Chowns and Adrian Ramsay (running on a joint ticket), on the other hand, promise a continuity in the Greens' electoral strategy.

Trans* rights have been a significant talking point. In the past, the Greens have faced allegations of transphobia, leading to then co-leader Siân Berry resigning in 2021. Many of the figures expressing "gender-critical" views - such as former Deputy Leader and spokesperson Shahrah Ali - have now been expelled or have left the party, providing their trans* members with some sense of reassurance.

Green Party Policy - which is democratically determined at their annual conferences - holds that: "trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary identities exist and are valid". Their 2024 election manifesto also pledged to reform the gender recognition process by introducing self-ID, legally recognising non-binary genders ("X" marker), and removing the spousal veto.

For some trans* people, however, *this is not enough.* Gender-critical views are not limited to a few individuals: there exist entire movements which aim to pressure the Greens to not only tolerate TERF rhetoric, but to explicitly adopt it as part of their party platform. **The fear of alienating these potential voters could explain why some candidates have tried appealing to 'both sides' of the 'debate'.**

Adrian Ramsay is a clear example of this. He has recently come under fire for several reasons: he refused to directly answer on whether trans* women were women, claimed that the Supreme Court ruling on 'sex' brought "clarity", and seemed to suggest that those with 'gender critical' views are "welcome" in the party. In his debate with Zack Polanski on LBC, he doubled down on these claims.

Ellie Chowns, who has not yet held a leadership position, has affirmed that "being trans is real" and "absolutely valid". Nevertheless, she has still faced scrutiny for being relatively uncritical of the Supreme Court ruling and there needing to be 'nuanced' discussions on instances where she believes the rights of cis and trans* women could potentially conflict, such as single-sex prisons.

Zack Polanski has been far more outspoken and unequivocal in his solidarity with the trans* community. A cis gay man, he likened transphobia today to his experience growing up under Section 28. If he were elected, he would be the first openly gay, as well as sole male and Jewish, leader. This would mean the Greens would have *two* Deputy Leaders, who must be of different genders.

Images:
Portrait of Carla Denyer, MP for Bristol Central / Roger Harris / CC3.0
Green Party Group Shot 6 / garylawsonphotography.com / CC1.0 PD

THE TRANS* COMMUNITY

He was interviewed on the podcast *What The Trans?*, where the hosts were impressed with his no-nonsense attitude and blunt answers. Ellie and Adrian also agreed to appear as guests but later backed out, according to the hosts. *PinkNews* explicitly stated that Zack has "proven himself" as a genuine ally to trans* people - much like his colleague Carla Denyer, who is also queer.

It is important to note that leaders alone have no power to change party policy; motions are proposed and then voted on by members. All of the candidates, despite the criticisms, have declared their support for the trans* community and stated that there is "no place" for transphobia within the Green Party. Whether this is enough to sway members, however, will be revealed in September.

Clearly, there is a lot at stake for trans* members of the Green Party - some have even threatened to leave entirely if Ellie and Adrian become co-leaders. **But how does this actually affect the wider trans* community in the UK?**

Although their current state leaves much to be desired, the Greens are very much the most pro-LGBTQ+ left-wing, major political party we have right now. I say this not only as a Green myself, but also as a non-binary, queer person.

In my opinion, virtually every other major party has turned their backs on trans* people - including previously welcoming ones, such as Labour. The only possible exception are the Liberal Democrats, who have faced criticism over their initial acceptance of the Supreme Court ruling on sex. Many also feel that their "allyship" is mostly symbolic and nowhere near vocal or radical enough.

Many of us, myself included, feel like the Green Party is the only political home we have. If a leader(s) who panders to the gender-critical crowd is elected, it could set a worrying precedent that transphobia is welcome, not only in the Greens, but the wider British left. With the establishment of the new left party being months away, it is too early to say what their stances would be just yet.

Trans* people, then, will be left without a single party that fully supports us - we may end up being forced to vote against our own rights at the next election. While there is the option of not voting at all, this is out of the question for many of us who care deeply about other existing issues, such as austerity or Palestine. **This election, then, affects *all* trans* people in the UK - not just within the Greens.**

Without a progressive leadership, a political party will not be able to gain the trust of trans* people or our allies - no matter how accepting their membership itself may be. Many of us are following this election closely and hoping that, once again, 'gender-critical' will become a fringe view; if they are *embraced* by the Greens, however, **we may find ourselves politically homeless once again.**

[Update after the election results]

Zack Polanski has won with 85% of the vote, an overwhelming landslide. In his victory speech, he explicitly mentioned the trans community and the need for the party to "have their back". **While it's still early days, and transphobia still exists in the Greens, things are looking hopeful for the first time in a while.**

Images:
Adrian Ramsay, October 2022 / garylawsonphotography.com / CC1.0 PD
Official portrait of Ellie Chowns MP / Laurie Noble / CC3.0

BY TYLER WANG

Body in Flight

Charlene Chan

I am a living embodiment of that transition / wings piercing the skies / landing in England and staying. / My body is the transition experiencing itself / skin breaking / the air to fit / around my lungs sucking / my corporeal space from Hong Kong / my history running in my veins / sticking to the ground here / no rush / no clue / your streets forever marked / with my presence / I imagine that I left some spiritual remnant in HK / to return to / most likely I'll have to carve an entirely new shape / name it after myself / if there's space / wedge into the cement / fog / neon lights

I discovered myself in this language / I wish I could express who I am now to my parents in their first language / so how do I translate *queer joy / futch / the space between cis and enby / neurodivergence / the way my fingers tingle and limbs dance / my sparkling brain / sensitive ears / the way I feel thinking of you / not husband or wife / loving myself as if I were my own child / sheer humanity?* / Maybe I found community here / but I promise / 阿爸阿媽 / my queerness is not a Western infiltration / I don't blame you for wanting me crystalised / I want my home city unchanged / yet I love my evolution.

In the space between words we find our meeting place / the hollow of your throat / whites of eyes / crease of elbow / it is everything and not enough at once / when concern and love feel untranslatable / dripping from my tongue / into soluble mess / please remind me of the city and blood that bond us? / The flight / when we flew through the skies together / drank each other's' tears and rained sleet onto these grey pavements / not sure / not wrong / unspoken goal to be as inconspicuous as possible / quell that fired up diaphragm / are my bones softening / hair hardening / undeniable body / adapting

My queer ancestors / what words did they use / what streamed in their minds / did they ever revel in their difference / preciously purse their desires / dress with the heart and not the mind / wink / brush fingers / share an illicit kiss / hiding can be protection / I'm sure there were pockets of acceptance / in cracks and crevices // did they ever think about me / their queer descendent carrying their hopes in my body / wielding words from a foreign tongue to describe myself / to everyone but my parents / if I find the words in Cantonese / will it sound more natural / swooping syllables / colouring new skies

阿爸阿媽: casual Cantonese address for 'father and mother'

Artwork by Oriel Baker

The Queer Agenda/Common Denominator

By Noah Gower-Jones

Next time we meet in the corner of a field. We are walking our dogs. We smile at each other and wish each other a 'good morning'. The dogs growl and yap at each other and we laugh and apologise. Then we pass and the moment passes with us, like two rogue planets careening wildly through empty space

Next time I am the tragic hero and you are the chorus yelling in my ears to 'stop', trying to beckon me home and away from this damned narrative. This time I was dead before I died; doomed the day I was born. And you held me all the same, dancing and stamping and shouting like the world was ending and I remember the whole amphitheater turned to look

Next time God sends us back down to earth as angels and we spend the days trying to ignore how silent it is when we lie our heads on each other's chests, knowing that our ribcages have become but empty drums for God to beat when it has something to say. We are not creatures of love anymore

Next time you find me in a club and tell me I look beautiful. I think the same of you — the way highlighter sparkles high on your cheekbones, shines out from the dip of your nose bridge, reveals the flat plane of your temples. Mesh drips off you and fishnet ties you together. When you smile I glimpse your sharp canines and wonder who you would protect with them

Next time you are roadkill and I am the only one who mourns for you, spotting you from the backseat window of a car barrelling along at seventy-five miles per hour, you are a mass of fur and blood, you are a shell, you are a dead thing now

Next time we are two trees growing next to each other, roots tangling together. We send each other mycelial love letters as the decades pass and we stretch out towards the sun like alveoli expanding with air

Next time our home is domestic and I search so hard but I can only find traces of you: a strand of dyed hair, the tap shut off slightly too tight, drugstore perfume lingering in the creases of my clothes. You do not appear despite my prayers

Next time we are lovers in an infinite moment of rest. I curl into you like a ribbon in a closed fist. Above me you peel an orange with your bare hands and the warm smell drifts gently to me. It is familiar; it is the smell of love.

Artwork by Oriel Baker

THE POET IN LOVE: I

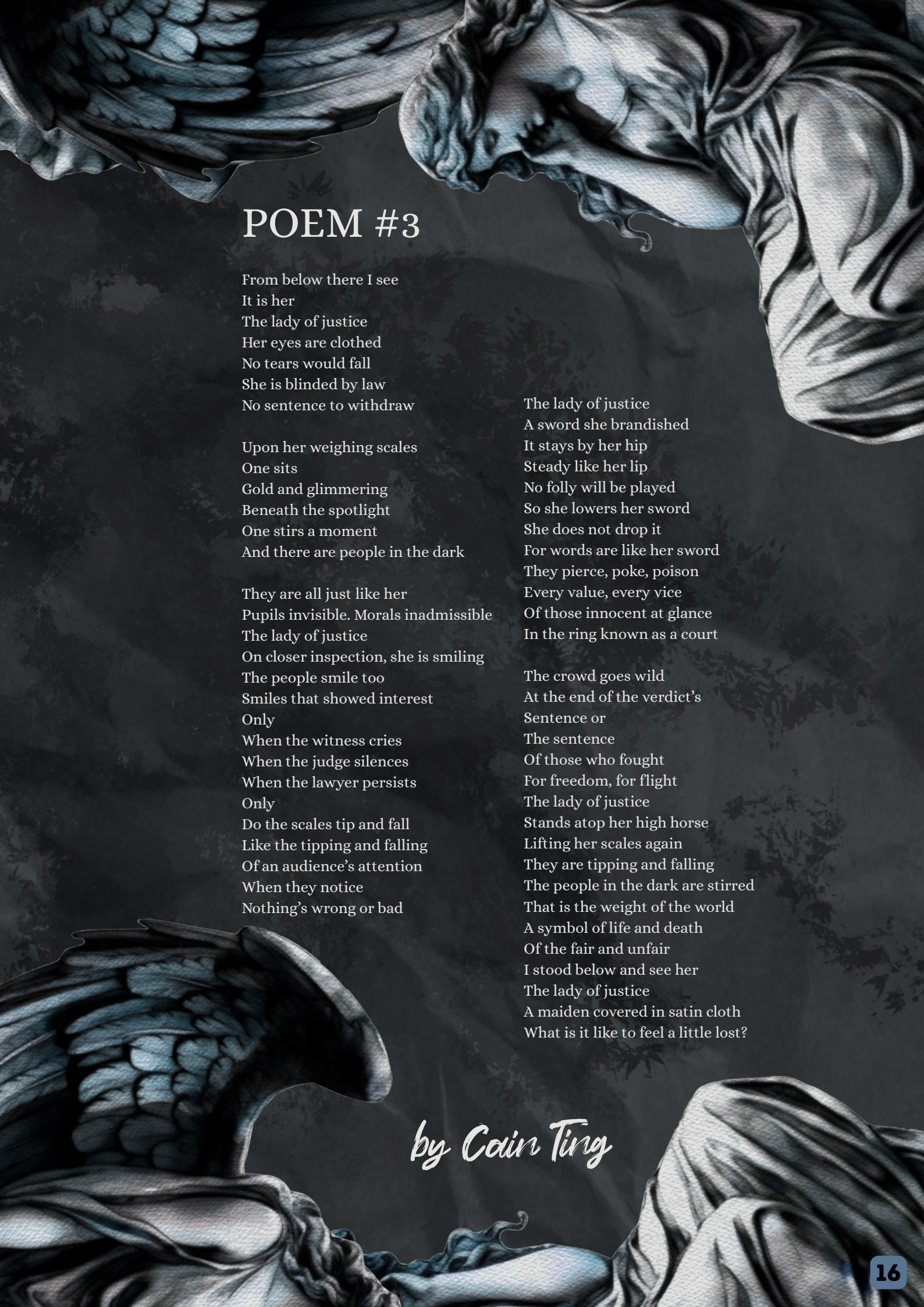
Oh, how I long to embrace you, my lovely stranger
We are sitting at a distance, a fine distance.
We are laughing. We are talking. But I wanted more.
You would look straight ahead. Ah. That is where the line crosses.
Straight ahead was your sight. And you would laugh, at a distance
A rain of arrows came from your mouth. Lady Artemis has come to warn me.
Straight ahead was your sight. It was the perfect distance to pierce my soul
A pointed arrow appeared when you blinked. Lord Apollo predicts an unconsolable heart

I'd imagine, the pathetic poet that I am
Where we would sit closer, closing in the distance
We were in love. We were smiling. I wanted nothing more.
And yet, you would still look straight ahead. I know a line cannot be crossed.
A poet's mind is limited. I can only go so far as to say I am supposed to love you.
Odysseus remembered Penelope despite the engulfing waves. Would I still remember this love
Despite the shallow and calm waves I forced myself to traverse upon?
A poet's mind limits love. Just like your straight glance. I am supposed to know where it ends

I thought, if I kept dragging out the ink from my pen, I could
We could be pulled in closer, a fine distance.
I will be the one with the straight face, staring unblinkingly at your lovely face
Suddenly, my imagination runs wild again at this singular possibility; the hopeless poet
Will I lose you when I turn away like Orpheus did
And you, like Eurydice, will never see the light of my feelings again?
I am supposed to know where this ends. I created this story myself. Your glance on me...
A selfish poet's desire. I would not mind being stabbed by your gaze a hundred times over
Being dead as a poet means nothing. I could always write something again.
The parchment is crumpled now. Ink has stained my hands and table.

Oh, my lovely stranger, here I am embracing you
Your wings are crumpled. I am kissing them softly. I dare not to unfold them.
My beautiful piece of work. By my breast I will hold you. Can you feel my fervent heart?
This is how I can keep you close to me. A figment of my imagination. The poet's foolish words.
This is all that I could ask for. You can keep staring ahead. Leave me be with my imagination
Of you.
Lord Apollo plays his lyre sadly when he sees a field of hyacinth
The poet recites their poetry with a straight face in a field of crumpled parchment.

by Cain Ting



POEM #3

From below there I see
It is her
The lady of justice
Her eyes are clothed
No tears would fall
She is blinded by law
No sentence to withdraw

Upon her weighing scales
One sits
Gold and glimmering
Beneath the spotlight
One stirs a moment
And there are people in the dark

They are all just like her
Pupils invisible. Morals inadmissible
The lady of justice
On closer inspection, she is smiling
The people smile too
Smiles that showed interest
Only
When the witness cries
When the judge silences
When the lawyer persists
Only
Do the scales tip and fall
Like the tipping and falling
Of an audience's attention
When they notice
Nothing's wrong or bad

The lady of justice
A sword she brandished
It stays by her hip
Steady like her lip
No folly will be played
So she lowers her sword
She does not drop it
For words are like her sword
They pierce, poke, poison
Every value, every vice
Of those innocent at glance
In the ring known as a court

The crowd goes wild
At the end of the verdict's
Sentence or
The sentence
Of those who fought
For freedom, for flight
The lady of justice
Stands atop her high horse
Lifting her scales again
They are tipping and falling
The people in the dark are stirred
That is the weight of the world
A symbol of life and death
Of the fair and unfair
I stood below and see her
The lady of justice
A maiden covered in satin cloth
What is it like to feel a little lost?

by Cain Ting

photo credits to Jimmy Liao, Pexels

BOYS' LOVE LOST

China's LGBTQ+ rights tightrope crashes to earth

BY MARTIN DAY

In early 2025, Chinese police raided residences and workplaces across the country. Students are led out in handcuffs and searched, their phones accessed without warrants. Others are summoned hundreds of miles to report for questioning, their money and income frozen. Online, relevant hashtags are censored; news stories disappear, and social media accounts begin to blink out.

None of this is new in China, of course, having long been in the throes of an authoritarian backslide since Xi Jinping proclaimed himself 'president for life' in 2018. But the subject of the country's latest crackdown is an odd one: online gay web stories, known as 'danmei'. The genre, called 'Boys' Love', but more conventionally known in the West as 'yaoi', was imported from Japan into the country in the 1990s. It gained popularity quickly on writing forums, including 'Jinjiang Literature City', a commercial site that now hosts some 500,000 works and seven million users. Stories always feature a romance between two men, often in a historical or fantasy setting, overcoming emotional or external hardships to live happily ever after. So on and so on.

In modern China the trope is wildly popular, especially (as in the West) among young, straight women. In Western think-pieces on the recent crack-down (most of which refer to danmei somewhat dismissively as 'gay erotica'), the genre's success is put down to a desire among women to express their sexuality through a coded lens. Free from the highly conservative and repressed Chinese cultural landscape, writers can put to words

feelings of desire and vulnerability

otherwise overwhelmingly rejected by society.

Of course, factoring in the Western tendency to dismiss LGTBQ+ culture as impossible anywhere outside its own borders, Occam's Razor suggests a simpler reason for danmei's firestarter success: queerness is popular. Gay and trans* rights in China have long been held in a sort of societal limbo, officially panned by the Chinese Communist Party but with depictions of queer relationships and transgender figures enjoying massive popularity on social media and even state television. The rights to TV shows based on danmei novels have sold for huge amounts of money – one series for as high as 40 million yuan (four million pounds). In 2021 alone, 60 different danmei novels were greenlit for adaptation.

Many of the resulting products would be considered laughably tame by Western standards: *Word of Honor*, streamed across 36 episodes in 2021, became one of the genre's most lauded shows, with an 8.6 rating from 600,000 reviews on 'Douban', a sort of Chinese IMDb. Its success lay in scintillating depictions of…

brotherly love and friendship.

It seems incredible to describe shows like this as 'queer media', but subtext and widely-understood euphemisms are the modus operandi of all LGBTQ+ works when overt depictions can land huge fines and prison time. Jinjiang Literature City banned all descriptions of intimacy "below the neck" in 2014 – writers now describe sex as "making dinner".

The dissonance of queer media being both banned by the state and hugely popular has long been a tightrope-walk by the CCP – yet now the act seems finally to have tumbled to earth. Jin Xing, a transgender dancer, is one of state media's most popular presenters: since last year, most of her dance shows have been cancelled without explanation. Shanghai Pride, an extraordinary annual display of queerness in a country that doesn't just ban pride, but any form of mass-demonstration whatsoever, used to be openly praised by *China Daily* and the *Global Times*, both outlets of the Party: the event has been shuttered post-Covid, with its organisers now blaming state intimidation.

The crackdown on danmei writers, almost all of whom are simply young women, is the clearest embodiment yet of a newer, uglier society. As with many recent restrictions, the arrests were met with outrage online: "Unreasonable and ignorant," was the protestation of one writer. "Utter bullst," wrote another on Reddit. Dozens of lawyers have offered pro bono service to those arrested. Yet, as with every autocratic saga, the country's online security apparatus flexed its muscles, and all these disappeared, as if never there at all. One hopes that China's nascent LGBTQ+ society can resist such an end.**

photo credits to Jimmy Liao, Pexels

Change isn't the enemy, homophobia is

I've known I was queer since I was 10. I remember confidently telling my mother I was a lesbian only for her to turn around and say, 'no you're not, now get out the car, we're late for school'. She came round eventually, but my dad? He was a whole other can of worms. He would claim to support gay marriage and in the next breath, tell my brother and I that our children would never be his family because they weren't raised in the right home. It wasn't even a matter of biology; he didn't care if he was related to the child or not. He was a radical bigot disguising himself as a liberal family man, abusive and cruel under the guise of comedy... maybe that's why I felt like I had to cling so tight to the label of lesbian. I was like a knight willing to die on his own blade before I gave up the label.

Still, maybe it was naive of me to think I knew myself at 10. I didn't even know my own name until sixteen – Lux – I stayed in my room practicing saying it, paranoid I'd get it wrong, and a flock of more deserving Lux's would swoop in and fight my right to it. My dad has still never called me by it, and my mother only when he is out of earshot.

By the time I came to uni, I had a new label for the collection – asexual. Still, I'd been through too much cruelty to let anyone else make me feel small about it. I was loudly and unapologetically a polyamorous asexual homo-romantic neo-pronoun using enby. I became an extrovert, a flirt, a womaniser. I rushed into relationships, carelessly, rebelling against my father's shadow. It seems foolish now just how much light a shadow can block out, but even a hundred miles away from him, I was drowning in his cruelty. However, it wasn't water I was drowning in, but vodka, cheap and nasty and not even numbing the pain I was trying to self-medicate away. I crashed and burned out of my first year, went home to my brother in November, and then got taken to my father's house in January.

It took a year before I could come back to uni, this time sober and disabled. I had a cane and a wheelchair to help me move around, but I was grateful for every centimetre of distance they helped me put between me and my father. I still rushed into things, but this time with fewer people. I dated another enby, we called each other boyfriends, briefly. I felt attraction for the first time, and it was terrifying. I was even slower with the next person I liked. We had a week of dates before our first kiss, then dated for a month before we entered a relationship. She was beautiful, the most attractive woman I'd ever seen, and it made me... conflicted.

Knowing myself didn't seem to make honesty any easier. There was a bitter taste in my mouth as every label from before became defunct. I wanted to use they/them, not my neopronouns. I didn't want to be polyamorous anymore; I wanted to just be hers. I realised I'd been repressing my attractions to feel safe. I was bi, and I hated myself for it.

How often do we hear people say: 'you're not asexual – you just haven't met the right person yet', 'you're not a lesbian – you just haven't met the right guy yet'. Hell, I even heard how poly people would complain about people trying to trick them into monogamy, but I wasn't trying to trick anyone. Up until I met my girlfriend, I didn't even know that was a life I could be happy in. I didn't want to prove the people who claimed it was all a phase right. I was a walking stereotype, ammunition to hurt others with. A liar. A monster. Detestable.

Staying static seemed the only way to stay valid and be queer enough. Changing made me an enemy.

But here's the truth, labels are just tools. They were always meant as a shorthand to describe ourselves, and you wouldn't use a hammer when you needed a spade. So often, we talk about our sexualities as fixed and unchangeable, as an immutable truth of ourselves, but the beauty of being queer is accepting and agreeing to let you find yourself – no matter how messy the journey. There's no contract, no rules. Whether it's been a decade or a year, you're allowed to change. You can be the lesbian who's not a lesbian after all.

By Lux Pembroke

An Interview with both sides of the HRT experience: DIY and NHS

How would you describe your HRT journey in 3 words?

Ania

: Anticipation, Satisfaction, Joy

Olivia

: Excitement, Depression, Impatience

I interviewed a trans* woman and trans* girl on their different 'Hormone Replacement Therapy' (HRT) experiences, resulting in an eye-opening discussion about gender-affirming care and our access to it in the UK - at a crucial turning point in our country's history.

Ania accessed, and accesses, HRT individually and follows the DIY process, which is becoming increasingly popular due to stricter regulations and harsher conditions regarding gender affirming care in the UK. Ania is 20 and began her hormone journey at 19.

Olivia began her HRT journey with the NHS, and still accesses her hormones through them to this day. Olivia is 17 and began her hormone journey at 15.

The initial HRT experience

While accessing HRT through the NHS is a notoriously drawn-out process, the DIY route remains as elusive as ever to those not on the lookout for it.

When asked about her experience with DIY hormones, Ania described it as "pretty straightforward". She explained that her understanding of the process came through friendship and word-of-mouth, alongside looking at subreddits, posts, and wikis - information that was "signposted" to her by other trans* women. She explained the process in detail: "I ordered these [hormones] from a website recommended by the TransDIY sub[reddit], it was super straightforward, and I still order from there after a year. I selected what I wanted, they offer estrogens, anti-androgens, and progestins." After a month, she went to the GP, was referred to a Gender Identity Clinic, and when her hormone levels were tested, they were "that of a cisgender woman's".

The straightforward nature of this is not reiterated in Olivia's experience. Initially, she and her parents "spoke to a GP about going to the now-defunct Tavistock and Portman Gender Identity Development Service." This was followed by forms, a waitlist, and - eventually - the choice to sign up for "the private service of Gender GP in order to get puberty blockers." It was not for a few months after that Olivia was "informed of a GP surgery that offered an informed consent model of HRT" which she transferred to. Unlike Ania, whose choice to begin HRT led to swift access, Olivia clarified that "the gap between me coming out to my parents and transferring to that [GP] surgery was over a year."

I asked both if they felt they had adequate access to important information before beginning the process - a question often wielded as a weapon of veiled disapproval against trans* people just beginning their transition - but in this case, was used as a genuine curiosity about this vast difference in information access one assumes there is between the national healthcare provider and supposedly random people on the internet.

However, Olivia further explained that she believes that the "long assessment process that the NHS currently has" through its Gender Identity Clinic system - a system that both Ania and Olivia went through - is what "contributes to it having such long waiting times". Instead, she claimed that the "informed consent" model she transferred to, is both "less costly for the NHS" while also giving "trans* people full bodily autonomy." This informed consent process is also used for "cis people getting identical medication" for example, "HRT for cis women experiencing menopause".

Feeling HRT: physically and mentally

When asked about the changes that starting HRT brought, Ania described an immediate "non-existent libido" alongside "pain in [her] chest", but additionally an overwhelming "sense of satisfaction".

Her "skin became less oily and softer to touch", "facial hair growth slowed", and she became "a lot more emotional", having "strong reactions to things in a different way" to how she did prior to beginning HRT. She explained a strange experience of stopping "feeling angry, ever" and becoming "a lot more expressive and whimsical and have become more comfortable with physical contact."

Olivia described similar physical experiences, saying: "My body hair thinned, I got softer skin, my fat distribution changed", all of which she found "really amazing." However, there were times she found "the process frustratingly slow".

Olivia described simultaneous euphoria of "relief from finally overcoming all the medical barriers", and, similarly to Ania, overcoming "the mental block" that made her more emotionally defensive - she was "able to get [more] catharsis out of sad emotions." But she also described the literal 'second puberty' as leading to "mood swings" and the new 'possibility' of physically aligning more with her understanding of cis womanhood led to a heightened experience "of body dysphoria" as she was "now both aware of an actual goal and how far away [she] was from it".

Would you change the process?

I asked both Ania and Olivia if they would ever consider the other method of gaining access to HRT. If they could, would they go back and start again differently?

By Mayumi Staunton

Ania said: "Honestly, I'm not too sure." She explained she "tried to [access HRT via the] NHS in college" and "get referred at least" - but it went nowhere. She reflected: "In retrospect, DIY likely has some kind of benefit, as I've heard NHS doctors put you on ridiculously low doses to start"- which was an issue that echoes Olivia's descriptions of frustration at glacial physical change and the resulting body dysphoria she experienced.

Ania is currently on the waiting list for a Gender Identity Clinic, but reiterated feeling a "sense of comfort, or security" due to "not being beholden to a government or private service in the current political climate as the increased hostility/silent genocide is not something I feel safe in within the UK."

Olivia also clarified that she was "comfortable with how [she] gets HRT right now", but "definitely would have considered DIY" if she went back now, due to it "being more readily accessible and allowing greater control over your transition."

While Ania explains that, going through the NHS, she would've had "more comprehensive medical support", she would've feared being "under prescribed". On a purely medical level, Ania would "probably choose injections of some kind of estrogen and be given GNRHa [puberty blockers] which would be much more manageable", which Olivia uses.

Olivia similarly described the costs and benefits of the different processes. She would've liked the greater "control over [her] transition" but felt it would've "been more costly, arranging blood tests might've been more difficult, and I would have felt more at risk from new government bans." Olivia specifically referred to the "puberty blocker ban, which affected all people on DIY, but not me because I already had a prescription for them."

"If you could give a message to other trans* people (specifically girls and women) either hoping to undergo this process, or beginning their journey, what would you say to them?"

Ania: "Bite the bullet and do it. If [it's] safe, there's not much to worry about and you'll feel infinitely more satisfied with yourself than pre-HRT."

Olivia: "I would say: be patient about it - the change will be quite gradual, so don't expect everything to happen all at once; be kind to yourself - try not to compare yourself so much to others and practice some kind of self-love and self-care [to] ease the pain of any dysphoria you might have; try to find some community - transition is difficult and even more so if you feel like no-one else is going through the same thing, so try to meet other trans people so you don't feel like you're experiencing this 'alone'."

I also asked how they would ask people to support them at the beginning of their HRT experience, if they could go back.

Ania said definitively: "Don't try to stand in my way, this is something I am sure of and even if I had the potential to regret it, it would be my bed to lie in."

Image: ev / unsplash

Image: Kadir Celep / unsplash

Olivia similarly asked for "compassion" from the people that love her, saying: "All I'd really ask for is just for people to be considerate, especially on the mental health side of things like having bouts of dysphoria or mood swings".

When individually asked if they had anything to add, both Ania and Olivia brought up parental fears that the process "would lead to irreversible changes" that would cause "regret in later life".

Olivia expanded explaining that she "faced difficulties starting HRT as it took [her] a while to eventually convince [her] parents to allow it."

Both Ania and Olivia emphasised the fundamental point - that their life belongs to them at the end of the day. Despite Ania's family and their doubts, and Olivia's position as a minor with her parents having similar fears, both Ania and Olivia describe their hormone experience as a need, not merely a want.

Olivia told me: "This is why I think informed consent and bodily autonomy, especially for children, is so important, and why standards like the Gillick Competence must be protected and actually applied for trans kids."

"If I had been unlucky enough to have been born in a steadfastly transphobic family, then I would have had no choice but to suffer in silence until I reached adulthood, or start DIY.

The right to self-determination should not be based on a lottery, and so trans kids should have full, ready access to the healthcare they need."

While both Ania and Olivia are different ages, with different HRT experiences, they both emphasise the necessity of having access to hormones, and control over their transition. While not every trans* person finds medical transition an essential part of their gender journey, the choice to pursue it is, and always will be, vital.

Thank you Ania and Olivia for sharing your journeys with me, I am so grateful.

8 QUEER FILMS THAT AREN'T 'I SAW THE TV GLOW'

BY NYE STEELE

I Saw the TV Glow is both an instant classic of queer cinema and one of my favourite films. Jane Schoenbrun's trans allegory, with its mixture of horror and psychodrama, is terrifying, moving, and beautiful. Yet so is the director's previous film, *We're All Going To The World's Fair;* the most compelling depiction of queer online spaces that I have ever seen. *I Saw The TV Glow* undoubtedly deserves its status as the hottest queer film of the last few years, but it is not the only queer film, as my friend ironically dismissed it as when I recommended it to them. I want to suggest other queer films from the past few years that I have enjoyed, as well as some classics of queer cinema.

still from 'Pink Flamingos'

still from the film

MIDNIGHT COWBOY

Not so much a work of queer cinema, as a precursor to its emergence in the 1970s, this 1969 film was one of the first commercially and critically successful films that featured fairly explicit depictions of (deeply repressed) gay desire. Joe Buck moves from rural Texas to New York in order to become a sex worker; Buck thinks of himself as the epitome of heterosexual masculinity, yet his homoerotic friendship with his best friend, "Ratso" Rizzo, suggests otherwise. Although its depiction of queerness is not without its problems, *Midnight Cowboy* is a moving and ultimately devastating depiction of the results of the repression of sexuality.

"FILTH ARE MY POLITICS FILTH IS MY LIFE"

PINK FLAMINGOS

John Waters' cult classic from 1972 is one of the first and most important properly queer films, beloved by generations of queer cinema fans. After being dubbed "the filthiest person alive" in a tabloid hate campaign, the drag queen and criminal, Divine, goes into hiding with her family, but her title provokes the anger of a heterosexual couple who aim to take it from her. What ensues is an incredibly shocking, offensive and entertaining film, complete with the murder of several cops, an iconic speech ("filth are my politics, filth is my life") and one of cinema's most infamous final scenes.

TOTALLY F**KED UP

One of the most important films of the 'New Queer Cinema' that emerged in the 1990s, *Totally F**ked Up* was described by its director, Gregg Arraki , as: "a cross between avant-garde experimental cinema and a queer John Hughes [the director of *The Breakfast Club*] flick" , a description that perfectly captures the film's bleak yet sympathetic depiction of a found family of alienated queer teenagers using hand-held cameras, creating a gritty aesthetic that is both solidly realist and oddly dreamlike. But don't be put off by Arraki's use of experimental techniques - the film remains a powerful and emotionally resonant piece of cinema.

TANGERINE

Sean Baker's micro-budget film used non-professional actors and innovative filming techniques to create a work of cinema that is both hilarious and empathetic. Trans* sex worker Sin-Dee is released from prison to discover that her boyfriend has been cheating on her with a cisgender woman so she decides to track her down and confront her. Meanwhile, her friend Alexandra tries to get an audience for her musical performance, whilst their client, an Armenian taxi driver, celebrates Christmas with his family. Featuring extraordinary performances by trans* actors Kitana Kiki Rodriguez and Mya Taylor, *Tangerine* has one of cinema's greatest denouements.

THE HANDMAIDEN

Legendary South Korean auteur Park Chan-wook wrote and directed this twist-filled adaptation of Sarah Waters' renowned lesbian historical crime novel *Fingersmith*, his greatest film to date. Transposing the action from the book's setting of Victorian Britain to 1930s Japanese-occupied Korea, Chan-wook creates an erotic thriller where nothing is as it seems, constantly undermining the audience's expectations and sense of the "truth" of what they are seeing. *The Handmaiden* is both a brilliant depiction of gay desire and romance and a daring and philosophically grounded film that explores serious questions of power, knowledge, and textuality.

GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

The British film industry's answer to *Brokeback Mountain*, this 2017 romantic drama is set on a farm in Yorkshire and depicts the burgeoning relationship between the son of a sheep farmer, and a Romanian migrant worker. Johnny is a lonely young man who helps run his stern father's farm and whose only real moments of human connection are anonymous sexual encounters. When his father hires Gheorghe to work on the farm, Johnny initially dislikes him, but the two quickly begin a relationship after a deeply homoerotic physical fight. *God's Own Country* is a grounded, yet deeply tender, depiction of queer love and sex.

"A GROUNDED, YET DEEPLY TENDER, DEPICTION OF QUEER LOVE AND SEX"

still from the film

stills from 'We're All Going To The World's Fair'

WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE WORLD'S FAIR

Jane Schoenbrun's first feature film may lack the visceral emotional power of *I Saw the TV Glow* but it more than makes up for it with its technical innovations and its unsettling atmosphere. Like its more famous successor, the film explores the way in which the experiences of many trans* people are mediated through media subcultures, focusing on isolated teenager Casey as she completes the viral "World's Fair" challenge and documents the physical and psychological changes she undergoes as a result. The resulting film is a haunting depiction of the experience of growing up online as a queer person.

QUEER

Visually stunning and, at times, deeply surreal, this 2024 adaptation of the 1985 William Burroughs novella about a gay American expat in Mexico, by Challengers director *Luca Guadagnino*, is a brilliant exploration of sex, queer relationships, and the search for human connection, starring Daniel Craig in one of his greatest performances. Craig plays William Lee, the aforementioned expat who falls in love with an emotionally distant and ostensibly heterosexual young man, who he travels with to South America in search of a drug that allegedly bestows telepathic abilities on whoever takes it.

QUEER CINEMA AT WARWICK

If you love queer cinema or want to find out more after reading our article then check out these queer films showing at Warwick Student Cinema!

WSC's full calendar can be found on their Instagram which is @studentcinemawarwick and you can find them in L3 Science Concourse.

9th November: Plainclothes

27th October: Rocky Horror Picture Show

17th November: Perfect Blue

18th November: The Virgin Suicides

30th October: We're All Going to the World's Fair

My Queer Warwick Experience

BY ABBIE HOYLE

Growing up, 'queer' was a quiet word.

Not that queerness was non-existent in my conservative hometown, but it was a collective decision to keep it at a whisper, undetectable to straight ears. We communicated through signs. We averted our eyes at assemblies about queer acceptance, failing to filter out the weaponised chuckles and slurs slung about by classmates, careless of who they hit.

Unable to stand my queerness being plagued like this, I forced out my own memories, my own identity. A once quiet word was now entirely inaudible, snuffed by an internally homophobic hand. When I bonded with the few queer girls at my all-girls school, I was accused of being into them. In silencing my own queerness, I muffled theirs, too.

When Warwick confirmed my place this time last year, I didn't know what to think. Nobody in my hometown had applied to Warwick: I could be a clean canvas. My sexuality would not be disclosed unless the words came from me, not from the mouths of girls from my school.

Taking back my voice in this way was undeniably scary, but I started by opening up on my course group chat. I mentioned two things. One: it's my birthday on fresher's weekend. Two: I am a lesbian. It was a start.

As term grew closer, I almost hoped everyone would have forgotten, fearful of receiving familiar comments. But the weekend flew by: I met up with some of these girls, and decided to put myself out there and go clubbing for the first time.

After my pathetically brief experience in the Copper Rooms, they offered to walk me back. One of the girls remembered my love for Chappell Roan - the first queer artist I'd really seen myself in - and whipped out her phone. 'HOT TO GO!' started blasting from the speakers. It was a small, alcohol-buzzed act, but I teared up, awfully singing along and moving my arms in a weak attempt to replicate the chorus dance

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Queerness pumped through the distorted bass of the speaker, queerness set warmth in my laughter, and queerness painted a new face in my memory. It was more than just an acknowledgement of my queer identity - it was an open-armed celebration in the dead of night.

I didn't know that this was just the beginning of a long string of new queer memories: mentioning my girlfriend to my seminar group, and receiving warm curiosity instead of bitterness; finding out two of my flatmates were queer and dragging one of them to the gay club with a lesbian flag stuffed in my bag, where we met the rest of our queer friendship group; making a cheesy t-shirt and writing

QUEERNESS WAS LOUD THEN

"curly haired lesbians 4 Chappell Roan" on the back with a Sharpie - the word feeling acceptable to scrawl, to say, to shout and sing and scream, and to *celebrate*.

Out of all the wonderful queer memories that have bloomed, I still cling to that drunken walk home on my birthday, the one that amplified the volume of all the others to follow. As 'Pink Pony Club' serenaded us back to Sherbourne - a song about queer belonging - I remember thinking **I'd never felt so safe, my queerness loud in the comforting arms of applause and laughter. I slept with a full heart.**

After nurturing this memory of mine, I interviewed some older students about their earliest queer memories at Warwick - the one that prefaced the rest.

James, a recent graduate, told me it was discovering a few of his flatmates were also bisexual. Maddy, another recent graduate, spoke about her professor asking the class for their pronouns, which was something she'd never encountered outside of explicitly-queer spaces back in Italy. Alisha, a third-year, shared a very similar experience. What I love about these overlapping experiences is that they hold different significance to each person.

To me, to be surrounded by queerness cannot be better summarised than by what Alisha calls it - "feeling alive". For James, being in queer spaces at Warwick has provided a fuller understanding of others' queerness, alongside his own. Surrounding myself with queer people has enriched me with queer culture and queer coding through apparel. Carabiners were being gifted at the freshers fair, and I wore that same black buckle 'til the print came off. It matched nothing I wore, but my lesbianism was too loud to care about colour coordination.

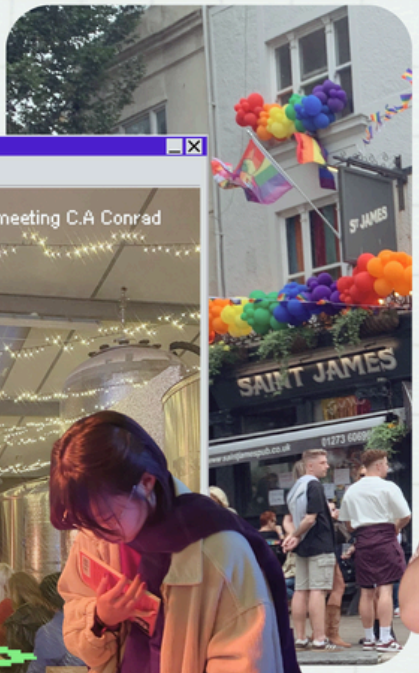
My queer experience at Warwick has been nothing but uplifting. My shrouded fresher self is barely recognisable in comparison to the open second-year that I've blossomed into. Coming to university offers a unique experience to fully embrace your true self in a completely new environment. James recommends first-years join a society; he was a huge part of Warwick Quadball and spoke to me about the importance of knowing that "you can find your queer spaces without having to go to explicitly queer societies."

The queer scene at Warwick is large and vibrant. Different spaces offer different volumes - exist at whatever level you like, but don't let your queerness be silenced.

Alisha says to "not feel pressured to come out or be queer in a specific way" - queer is not a 'one-size-fits-all' label, it is a "state of being" undefined by how much you may present yourself. When I first bonded with my queer group, there was a nagging sensation that I wasn't queer enough to 'belong' because of my lack of exposure to queer culture - but their arms were open regardless, generous enough to expose me to theirs.

Thank you so much to Alisha, Maddy, and James for allowing me to interview them about their queer Warwick experiences - this article wouldn't have been possible without their contributions.

Image credits: Trinity Kubassek / Pexels



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poetry performance and meeting C.A Conrad

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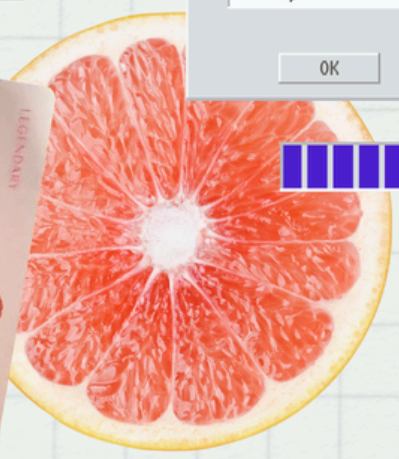
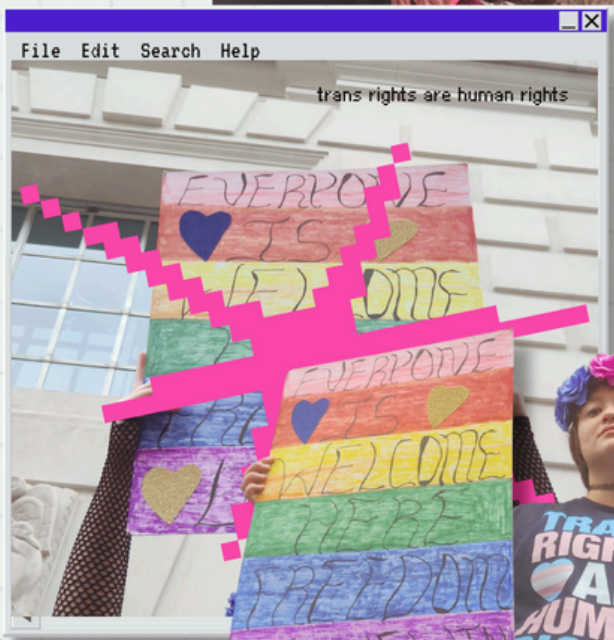


collage made by Angelina

QUEER CULTURE

Following the release of our last edition, ueer Culture" we wanted to see what our readers experienced as queer culture at Warwick! Here are some photos they sent us!!



PLANORAMA 25/26 EXEC PLANORAMA 25/26 EXEC PLANORAMA 25/26 EXEC

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Become a rep for PLAN!

Interested in becoming a Freshers/ Postgraduate Representative for Warwick PLAN?

As a Junior member of the PLAN executive committee, you will work to promote events, engage your cohorts in the society's activities, collaborate with exec members and, of course, get your own coveted purple exec hoodie!

Keep an eye on our Instagram for applications :)

PLANORAMA PODCAST

Hello fellow queers and other funky folk. It's Maya (she/her) and Ben (he/him), coming at you through the page, to compel you to listen to the Planorama Podcast - THE QUEER STUDENT. We've got everything you could possibly need and want thrumming in your ears: culture, careers, community and plenty of charisma. All clear, here and most importantly - queer! Come join us, the more the merrier. Let's make Warwick, and the world, a better and queerer place!!

PLAN WARWICK PROFESSIONAL LGBTQ+ & ALLIES NETWORK

WHO IS WARWICK PLAN ?

If this is your first exposure to PLAN, welcome!

At PLAN, with sponsors from multiple industries, exclusive spring weeks and our annual conference, we offer plenty of opportunities for our LGBTQ+ community here at Warwick. We also run workshops, speaker events and more to help you build your employability skills and support you through university into your career.
We also host an array of socials, trips and club nights to provide a supportive, welcoming environment for Warwick's LGBTQ+ community and allies.

When finding internships and learning about companies, students with minority sexual orientations and gender identities have the added issue of discovering how open and accepting firms are of LGBTQ+ professionals. By highlighting upcoming events put on by companies that are committed to providing a safe working environment for their LGBTQ+ staff, we hope to help our society's members in their endeavour to find an accepting workplace.

PLANORAMA IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW VOICES!

Planorama is our very own magazine, established to provide a platform for the queer voices of the University of Warwick. We cover both university and mainstream topics in our print magazines and online stand-alone articles.

We print 3-4 issues every year, with our online articles posted regularly on our social media pages and website. At Planorama, we always want to hear more points of view. If you would like to submit to us, join the Planorama Writers and Artists group chat! You can find the link in our instagram bio.

No prior experience is necessary!

ARE YOU A FRESHER? JOIN PLANORAMA AS A FREP!

warwickplan.co.uk/planorama

@warwickplanorama

Warwick PLAN Society

PLAN

WARWICK

PROFESSIONAL LGBTQ+ & ALLIES NETWORK