

Q+A

SOSSITY CHIRICUZIO

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY?

As a queer, fat, working class, poly, bearded femme.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN PORTLAND/OREGON?

I moved to Portland in 2004 seeking community I needed: radical queers who are body/sex/poly positive and politically aware. I found that, but I also found a city and community who have so much work to do around racism and accountability. This city fills and breaks my heart every day.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT OR A PASSION YOU HAVE THAT NO ONE WOULD GUESS?

Perhaps some people don't know that I like to 2 step, or that I love sci-fi, or what a nerd I am about plants.

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO OR REVERE IN THE GAY COMMUNITY OR HISTORICALLY?

Dorothy Allison is an inspiration and lodestar for me: be real. be fierce but not hateful. Talk about the stuff you're supposed to be shamed by. Embrace the entirety of your experience. Acknowledge the experiences of others.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION WITHIN THE QUEER COMMUNITY?

I've experienced it personally in relation to my gender, my class background, and my size; and I've definitely seen it happen to people of color, disabled folks, transfolks, to the freaks in the 90's and to the folks who aren't freaks now. We step on each other all the time.

WHAT'S AN IMPORTANT TOPIC THAT THE LGBT COMMUNITY SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT AND ISN'T?

Privilege and accountability. Race, class, gender, sex, sexuality, appearance, size, age, ability... willful ignorance.

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