

publicly. I also will be back on television. I have a couple of projects that are in different stages of development. I still believe in the power of television. I sort of grew up in the Oprah school of TV – which for me is the best. I am excited to return to television in a meaningful way.

JH: Is it similar to your old show with room makeovers?

NB: I can't really say right now.

JH: You've been a role model by being openly gay. Do you support a specific cause?

NB: I would never label myself as a role model. My sexuality is something that I've never hidden. That in and of itself has hopefully created some room for people to feel more comfortable. I've written about the coming out process. Mitchell Gold was editor for a book called *Crisis* that asked several people how their coming out process was and their thoughts around that. I shared very openly what mine was with my family. Right now the issue of bullying is enormous, and it's an enormous plague and it's important to let these kids know that things do get better. I've been involved in the *It Gets Better* campaign with Shelly Wright and some other people. But I think that as people we have to allow others around us to grieve when we come out because it's not the life that they anticipated for us. They need a little breathing room as well. That's not to say I support any animosity, but sometimes when we come out we have this expectation that everyone is going to jump on board and be okay with that. I believe we need to give people space and the time that they need to come to terms with it on their own. (In *The Things That Matter* Nate shares his story of how he came out to his family while he was a freshmen in college. It's an honest, heartfelt account that we all can relate to, and that exhibits a strength, wisdom and compassion for what his parents had to process.)

And then the call came to an end.

I'd like to say that I knocked it out of the park. But on the phone I lost my ability to speak, and I probably gushed a bit too much. However, I overcame my fear and spoke to one of my design heroes that I never would have dreamed I would be able to meet. Nate was friendly, open and honest. In the end, I am happy that it was a phone interview so he couldn't see how much I was sweating. \$

This is Jonathan Hopp's first article for Just Out. As an interior designer, he believes where we live, how we live and who we surround ourselves with directly correlates to our happiness. That is why he moved to Portland with his partner. His column "Design Matters" will cover architecture, interiors, people, design and all the things that reflect where we live — in one of the most beautiful places in the world.

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