

Q+A

ANTOINETTE SPARKLES

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY?

I identify as an andro-femme queer woman.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

I am a webcam model and make-up artist.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN PORTLAND/OREGON? WHAT DO YOU LOVE/HATE ABOUT IT?

I moved to Portland in 2004. I am very fond of the noble-minded attitudes. People really like to live for something in Portland. It is so beautiful and comfortable here though, that sometimes people forget there is still work to do if dreams are to be made.

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

Frida Kahlo, Leigh Bowery, Julia Serano, and Donna Haraway, to name a few.

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED GAY BASHING?

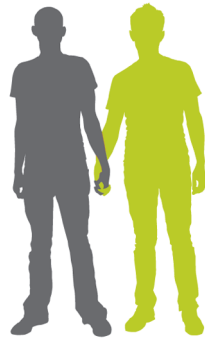
Yes. While growing up I was harassed about it all the time, though I really didn't understand how I was "gay." As an adult, I still experience hate from time to time. Just this last year, someone threatened to run my partner and I over with their car. Thankfully words and threatened violence are the worst I have had to deal with for being queer.

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

When you identify as LGBT it is easy to generalize based on personal experience. The diversity of our community demands that we listen a little more, actively seek some knowledge and reject this selfish sort of attitude. We all have varying degrees of privilege and suffer different types of oppression. We can all contribute greatly to one another. I suggest that we talk about how our experiences differ, and actively work to be better allies to one another, instead of assuming that we already are. This is what community is based on. §

Be a part of Q&A. Send a short note to editor@justout.com and tell us about yourself or a friend.

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