

Q+A

JAMES DIXON

HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY?

I have a problem with structured sexuality in any form, so the hedonist in me comfortably identifies as queer. Men are typically the main course however I'm moderately polyamorous and pan sexually curious; and secretly attracted to masculine energy in any biological form that it manifests itself in. Sum that up in one word and make me a bumper sticker if you feel so inclined.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

I'm a Concierge for the Gerding Theater at the Armory, which is the home of Portland Center Stage. PCS is the first historic building and the first performing arts venue to achieve a LEED Platinum certification. I am also a Professional Development Volunteer for PCS which helps to support our renovation capital campaign and a variety of education and community outreach programs.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION WITHIN THE QUEER COMMUNITY?

The poignant truth is that I have. I am African-American, queer, Pagan, and I am not wealthy. These are all labels that I have been discriminated for and it is unfortunate. I think that the people of the LGBTQ community should research the definition of "solidarity", look in the mirror, and paint that face on each morning. We could accomplish so much as an actual community.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE PEOPLE COMING OUT?

Own your moments... This life is yours to command and you should be free to manifest all of the wonderful things in it without the burden of caring what people think about you.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE FUTURE OF LGBT PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHTS?

We will succeed! There are federal and state level LGBTQ nonprofits that are fighting this war for us and not everyone feels included in this process. Not having the ability to write a big check doesn't mean that these people should not be heard. We are still so divided as a community which is so damaging to us as a whole. Even together we are outnumbered. How can we ask for acceptance if we can't accept each other? \$

Be a part of OUR PEOPLE: Send a short note to editor@justout.com and tell us about yourself or a friend.

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