

The Many Questions and Issues in a Drag Queen's Life

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By: JizzaBella

Looking back on April 19th, 2004, I have come to realize I have come along way. This day signifies pain and hardship for me because it is the day I lost my mother to a long battle of Cancer. But this event allowed me to take another path in life, I grew up quick, which was positive for me but also lead me to negative outcomes.

All I can ask is what would my mother want me to do in life. Well to answer that, she would want me to live my life to the fullest but to also be happy with life. These past months, I have not been doing that. Why is this? Many reasons for that: Identity, Love, Social Cliques, and Drama. These issues have blinded me from what I strive for everyday and that is happiness. Why do I allow these things to be the main factors in my life? I ask myself that everyday!

Since the start of Drag, I have loved the attention, positive attention is something I have longed for since elementary school. I was the kid that got bullied and would be chased home. I never got a break except when I was at home crying myself to sleep. I use to hate school because I never had a good day. Drag enabled me to change all of this. I would go out to a club and people would tell me I looked great and was fun to be around. It felt like I was a celebrity. This feeling would lead to an identity issue for me. I was starting to lose interest in my boy self because why would I want to feel ignored when I could feel accepted. This is the first issue I have with in life. Who is more important? Why can't I live my life as both? Who am I? These are questions I ask myself everyday and cause me to stress out on life. I just wish life could be black and white, but sadly it is not. Sometimes I wonder if people would rather have me be a woman fulltime than be a man because they definitely do not give me the time of day, when I am out as a man.

With this issue comes another issue, Love. Relationships are hard to come across when you are a drag queen. The idea of a man dressing up as a woman to entertain people confuses many people. They feel that we are either too feminine or want to be women. That is a big misconception because when I am not in drag, I consider myself to be more masculine and consider myself to be a man. One thing that makes drag difficult is the desire to have the acceptance of my boy self in the community but at the same time not to be judged for doing drag. When I think of the LGBT community, I think of Drag queens because they are a huge symbol for this community. The Drag Queens do so much for the



Twitter: @missjizzabella

Website: missjizzabella.webs.com

Email: missjizzabella@live.com

#: 646.580.Jizz (5499)

community; they hold functions, benefits, etc. These are to be commended and not looked bad upon. The sad fact is most people would rather pick love like they were going grocery shopping, using a checklist, than actually getting to know someone for who they are. I have come to realize that people do enjoy getting to know me personally and do show interest towards me, but once I tell them that I do drag, they run right out the door. This fear of Drag queens is something that I wish could change but so many stereotypes of Drag queens have been established it is hard to surpass this pre-judgment. Will I find love? I do hope so but only time will tell.

Along with love there is drama, so much drama is woven into love because love is not simple but complicated. Drama is a plague that lingers among the Gay community. Anywhere you go you see or hear drama and there is not much you can do about it. Since I started college in Rochester, I started off as the young, cute boy that quickly turned into the drag queen that people might have enjoyed at the club but outside the club, they wanted nothing to do with them. Rochester gay scene is such a hard scene to be accepted or feel wanted in. It saddens me that the newer gays are going to have to deal with this horrible situation. For the most part I feel the gay community in Rochester is like middle school and high school where everyone talks about you or passes around judgment of you, so no one gives you the chance of getting to know you. This is what happened to me, people liked me but then I fell out of the loops. I was everyone's friend then overnight became barely anyone's friend. I cannot judge the community solely on this outcome but there is defiantly an issue within gay communities and that is the drama. Lies about how much sex someone has or if someone has an STD. These are common things that are spread around and can do damage to someone's reputation. If I could give advice to the new people entering a scene, especially the Rochester one, I would say, stay safe and always keep your eyes and ears open. Genuine friends will be there no matter what and those who are not are the drama filled people that will be there to destroy you. If you do not keep people like this around you and do not let them get to you, you will do fine in life. This segment leads into my final issue in my life and that is a social clique!

Social cliques are becoming more and more common in scenes especially in Rochester. One place where I see cliques popping up more and more are at RIT. RIT is a college that has a big population of students but sadly not a huge population of LGBT students. With this you would think that everyone would stick together and find a way to stand out and support each other. In fact it is the complete opposite, the community has found a way to form little cliques and learn how to outcast people who do not fit in. This saddens me because one of the main goals the LGBT community has fought for is equal rights but at the same time they cannot keep equality among their own people. How do you expect other people to provide you with the respect and the equality you ask for when you cannot do it yourself? The LGBT community's bonds within it are too weak for any reform in society to happen. I have found myself not part of a clique because I do not agree with them, this could be a reason why I have so much drama within the community because I will not conform to them, but if that makes me a bad person, so be it.

Not very good at closing off or ending anything because this is something that cannot be ended. These issues are something that will always be talked about and so for any progress to happen, more discussion needs to happen and more solutions need to be thought about. If you have any suggestions, concerns, questions, or comments, please email me at missjizzabella@live.com and please tell me what is on your mind. Please let me know what I could do to solve my own personal issues or what could be done to help other drag queens out there dealing with these issues. These issues affect drag queens everyday but also affect a lot of people in society. No one should brush them off and just breeze through life, ask questions, be alert, and try to live life to the fullest. Keep posted for future articles!

Yours Truly,
JizzaBella
xoxo