

## Talking Points Toronto Trans Pride 2011—Kate Bornstein

### Tku for inviting me.

1. I don't get asked to talk at many LGBTetc Pride events, which is fine by me because I'm mostly never sure what I'm supposed to be proud of, anyway.
2. Looks to me like I'm *supposed* to be proud of having corporate sponsors, or fitting my life into this culture's increasingly sex negative gender binary. That's what LGBTetc Pride has become in my country. How about Canada?
3. I don't WANT a Pride Day that would make Toronto Mayor Rob Ford & Canadian Prime Minister Steven Harper feel comfortable.
4. I wanna get back to the Pride we once took in having great sex, and making ourselves as sexy as we possibly can. That's what I think Trans Pride is about, and that's why I'm proud to be here talking with you, fabulous you.

### History

1. I grew up in 1950s America: homophobic, racist, classist, misogynist America.
2. There wasn't even a word for transgender then, let alone transphobia
3. I came out in mid-1980s America, the height of the AIDS epidemic
4. The beginning of what was called Gay Pride
5. There were rainbow flags, but they didn't include the vast rainbow of trans people that we are today and always have been.
6. To gain admission and make ourselves part of the rainbow, we allied ourselves with lesbian women and gay men because their identities most nearly matched ours in that the basis of our identities is desire.
7. Their identities are based in sexuality, ours are based gender. We overlap at Desire. We overlap at love. That's our history together, and it's our only viable future together.

## **How have we made our lives more worth living as Trans people?**

1. There are three aspects of life that make life worth living.
  - a) Identity — who/what do you wanna be?
  - b) Desire — who/how do you wanna fuck (if you wanna fuck at all, cuz asexuality is a valid sexual orientation)
  - c) Power — what access do you have to the resources you need to make live worth living for you and your loved ones?

## **All Politics & Activism Are Trying to Make Life More Worth Living For People, so All Politics Are Based in One of These Three Aspects of Life**

1. Politics of Power — that's when a few people control & dole out all the resources.
2. Politics of Identity — that started w/ democracy and disintegrated into the mess we've got today.
3. Politic of Desire? — there's never been a secular one.
4. Those of us who are activists of gender and sexuality are most familiar with Desire.
5. Love and desire are the basis of our our trans lives. So it's down to us to develop a politic that reflects and embodies love and desire.

## **There are Three Main Barriers to A Trans Politic of Love & Desire**

1. Sex Negativity: Our culture diminishes anything to do with sex or being sexy
2. Gender Binary: Our culture mocks and attacks anything outside the binary.
3. And for centuries, humanity has carved itself into little bits by hierarchal vectors of oppression using:
 

• Gender	• Ability	• Ecology /
• Sexuality	• Looks	Geography
• Race	• Religion	• Family &
• Class	• Citizenship /	Reproductive
• Age	Membership	Status

4. These are *all* hierarchies, masquerading as binaries. Well, we know how to deconstruct a binary and that's something we can bring to the table of a coalition of the margins. We know how to work magic with sex & gender binaries, and using the same principles we can help to deconstruct:

- Gender as *man or woman*
- Sexuality as *homo or hetero*
- Race as *black or white*
- Class as *rich or poor*
- Age as *young or old*
- Religion as *true believer or go to hell*
- Ability as *abled or disabled*
- Looks as *good-looking or ugly*
- Citizenship as *US citizen or go fuck yourself*
- Membership as *you belong or you don't belong*
- Ecology & Geography as *my land or your land* (and if it's my land, I'll treat it how I want to, so get the fuck off it)
- Language as *English or go fuck yourself*
- Family & Reproductive Status as *married with children or shame on you*
- Politics as *Right Wing or Left Wing*

### **The basis of a new trans politic is a coalition based on radical inclusion**

1. Lesbian women & gay men are making terrific political headway in the world, but they've been leaving the rest of us behind, promising to come back and pick us up later. As a Trans movement, we cannot make the same mistake.
2. It may sound radical, but we include *anyone* as family who base their identities primarily in sexuality and gender—we welcome them as family.
3. The only rules for membership are don't be mean, and use generously any privilege you've got.
4. And of course, family members are gonna fuck up. That's when we practice the really hard part of being family: we give each other the benefit of the doubt. Sure, we call each other out, AND we trust in each other's good intentions.
5. Trans is so much more than the T in LGBT. Here's a partial list of who we really are. Really, it's only a *partial* list of our club, our family...

- B for Bisexual
- P for Pansexual
- A for Asexual
- L for Lesbians
- D for Dykes
- T for Transgender
- T for Two Spirit
- G for Genderqueer
- G for Gay
- F for Faggots
- Q for Queer
- Q for Questioning
- Q for Queer Heterosexuals
- A for Adult Entertainers
- S for Sadomasochists
- S for Sex Workers
- S for Swingers
- D for Drag Queens
- D for Drag Kings
- D for ALL DragFuck Royalty
- I for Intersex
- F for Feminists
- F for Fairies
- F for Furrries
- F for Femmes
- B for Butches
- B for Bears
- B for Bois
- M for MSM
- W for WSW
- K for Kinky
- P for Polyamory
- P for Pornographers
- P for Porn Stars
- ETC for et cetera. That means anyone else who embraces sex positivity, sex inclusion, and gender anarchy... and that leaves two more categories...
- AI for *ad infinitum*
- Another AI for queer Artificial Intelligence

### **These Are The Talents We Can Take Pride In. Of All Marginalized Groups...**

- a) We know how to do love
- b) We know how to do desire
- c) We know how to do sexy
- d) We know how to dismantle a binary!
- e) That's what we bring to the round table of any coalition of the margins.
- f) That's why I'm proud of us.

**Thank you, and Blessed Be.**