



# on the road, looking for tribe

the value of transgender experience and theory at this moment in history



Participants at an Outlaw Survival Tips Workshop, *TransOhio*, August 2008.

This is my 15th year of touring, and I'm both excited and apprehensive. The USA is clearly polarized—scarily so. Who is it moving into the White House? There's only two choices. A sweet, young man who has captured the heart of a great number of Americans? Or another playground bully and his girlfriend, the mean girl? The world's about to change again. But, no matter who will have taken the reins of the so-called free world, those of us who live out on the edges of the culture aren't going to see much of the change we need in order to make our lives more worth living. And those of us who live out on the margins of the culture aren't going to be any more free than we are at this moment.

Some of us live outside the culturally acceptable limits of gender, and sexuality. Others of us live way out on the despised margins of race, age, and class. Lots of us may be spiritual, but not too many religions want to include us... except maybe as charity cases. For many of us—ever since we were kids—people have laughed at us for how we looked. Or they stared at our differently abled bodies.

We're citizens of the world, but too many of us end up as second class citizens, or illegal immigrants. We are most of the people in the world, but the powers that be are building walls to keep us out and apart.

The Right Wing divides and conquers us. It's easy. All they have to do is pit one marginalized group against another. Like race versus gender, or age versus religion. What's it going to take for us to get down to the business and fun of a real revolution? I wanna hear some answers to that question while I'm on the road this year.

Over the last couple of hundred years, we've built ourselves a my way or the highway government. Are you with 'em, or are you agin' em? Well, I'm *with* the USA. I'm agin' the idiots who are running it these days.

The truly marginalized of the world are too complex for yes-or-no forms of public, political and religious discourse and funding. Most of us live far beyond the binary options of what those in power consider worthy of their respect.

...essay continued on the back page

Announcing **iKate**  
iKate is the new green  
alternative to touring!

With iKate, I can be  
virtually yours while  
saving the planet!

Touring college campuses, festivals, conferences, and bar mitzvahs keeps me in touch with the wild, wacky, evolving world of sex positivists, gender anarchists, teens, freaks and outlaws of all ages and stripes. So, I try to go anywhere I'm asked to perform or speak. But I *am*. a high maintenance femme. I want diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. Especially emeralds. I'm ever so green.

Thank goodness, I understand I can't always get what I want. But, you can! Enter **iKate**.

I can now show up in your classroom, or conference hall via the wonders of cyberspace. And **iKate** is green! No jet fuel burned on flights!

That's **iKate**! All you need to do is set up a projector on your end, cabled to either a Mac running iChat, or any computer running Skype, and I'm there! I've tried it out, and it works like a bandit. It's green, it's more affordable, and it's a two-way conversation—you'n me. How about *that*. for the wonders of science?!

So, [drop me an email](#) and let's see how we can make it work where you are—either in person, or through the magic of **iKate**! I'm hoping to see you soon.

*kiss kiss, Kate*





THIS YEAR'S LECTURES, PERFORMANCES, & EDUTAINMENT

**Kate Bornstein: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us**



This is my autobiographical signature piece. It's entertainment and both a welcoming introduction to the notion of sex and gender beyond the binary—as well as a deeply moving affirmation of spirit for sex-and-gender outlaws. If you don't mind the f-word every now and then, the show is even child-friendly.

These are my most personal stories, my favorite comic and dramatic monologues, and even a chapter from my upcoming memoir, *Kate Bornstein Is A Queer and Pleasant Danger* (Seven Stories Press, September 2009). *On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us* is great for both celebrating and increasing the awareness of trans identities. Depending on your facilities, I can perform this show with or without film, slides and audio.

**Keynote/Plenary/Graduation Address**

I've had the privilege and honor to keynote local, national, and international symposia, conferences, and orientation sessions. You and I will talk about the theme of your event, and will come back to you with a proposal that will tie your theme in with any or all of the following topics: sex positivism, gender anarchy, intersectional coalition, America's bully culture, alternatives to suicide for teens, freaks, and other outlaws, and of course...we can share fashion and beauty tips.

**Pride Week, Pride Month, Day Days, Gaypril, Trans Pride... You Name It, We Can Celebrate the Pride of it.**

The definitions of queer and straight are shifting into the left and right wings of the cultural debate over sex and gender. There are people who are sex positive and/or gender anarchic, and they don't much care about anyone else's sex or gender. Let's call them queer. Then there are people who think that too much focus on sex and gender hurt their chances for a better life in mainstream culture. Let's call them straight.

Within the LGBTQQI... etc. community, there are an increasing number of "straight" lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered people. They're demanding cultural inclusion, and the human rights that attend that inclusion: marriage, hospital visitation, the extension of health benefits, etc., etc.

The US national leadership of LGBTQQI... etc. is (no doubt) a well-intentioned group of liberals and progressives, with a smattering of conservatives. They are forwarding the promises of the American dream—part of which includes the capitalist rights to named inheritance, joint stock certificates, and gay days at Disneyworld. Do Pride celebrations belong solely to these people? Or does Pride also include the numerous socially unacceptable and politically radical queers—the visible targets of the Right Wing?

Queer subculture includes sex positivists and/or gender anarchists—including heterosexual, asexual, omnisexual, polyamorous, BDSM, sex-and-gender positivists—and *any* identity that depends on the radical position it takes towards mainstream sex and gender conventions. So, who gets to be proud on Pride day/month/gay day/gaypril etc? Is there anything we might all be proud of that can heal our wounds of class and race, and unite the LGBTQQI... etc. community? That's the kind of Pride talk I like to do.

**Come Out, Come Out, Whatever You Are**

National Coming Out Day is a scary holiday for LGBTQQI... etc. people. Coming out as any gender or sexuality that's different from what people think you are is a frightening thing to do. You can lose your family, your home, your friends, and your job. If you come out with the intention of following the nature of your evolving desire—you can lose a lover. Been there, lost all of that. I've got lots to say about coming out. Most of it is encouraging and uplifting. The rest of it is comic relief. Call me. I can deliver the kind of Coming Out talk that's right for where you live.



Mike lived a lively American boyhood.

AND HEY—WHILE I'M IN YOUR TOWN, SPEAKING OR PERFORMING...

I'm happy to meet or speak with local media to publicize your event. I enjoy participating in classroom and informal discussions with LGBTQQI... etc students or conference attendees. I'm also glad to attend receptions, participate in panels and town hall style discussions, do book signings, and schedule any number of workshops. I'm also available for longer residencies in Theater or Women & Gender Studies. And of course, while I'm there, we can go shopping in your funnest stores!





MORE OF THIS YEAR'S LECTURES, PERFORMANCES, & EDUTAINMENT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

**Dangerous Dreams and Damned Desires — the personal politics of sex positivism and gender anarchy**

Sex, love, gender and desire—even when they're consensual and respectful—are rarely granted any seat at the table of public discourse. For example, could you teach or enroll in a course in masturbation on your campus? In your community center? How about a simple little—hands on themselves only—workshop for teens on the subject of making their own bodies feel great? Could you do that where you live? Why not, and what can you do about it?

For thousands of years, radical notions of consensual, respectful desires have been demonized, silenced, and invisibilized. It's time we talk with each other about sex. *Dangerous Dreams and Damned Desires* is edutainment, drawn from my most recent book, *Hello, Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, and Other Outlaws*.

Desire is the stuff of laughter, tears, and paradox. I've been able to successfully tailor this performance piece for many different audiences. The outer edges of our desires are some of the most life-affirming dreams in our lives. With this performance, I'll gently lead each member of the audience as close to the edge as they're willing to go.



**Sex, Bullies, and You — how america's bully culture is messing with your sex life**

This is my call-to-arms piece, my call for unity with everyone whose sex life or gender presentation has been wrecked by some bully. Sex, Bullies, and You is a 60 minute performance version of the bully section in my book, *Hello, Cruel World*. There are sex-and-gender bullies of all ages, and many hold positions of real power in the culture, or on your campus. Bullies make life seem less worth living.

Bully culture began way back in school, when kids were teased, harassed, beaten, raped, or murdered for nothing more than their sexuality—or for the way they expressed themselves as masculine or feminine. It was simply love that made those kids stand out. You'd think it would be love that could make us stand together.

*Sex, Bullies, and You* is the piece I wrote to inspire that kind of love. If there's any sort of homophobic nonsense going on where you live, this is the piece I want to deliver for you, your allies, and all the people who just need to wake up and feel the love. Then, we can get on with the business of cultural revolution.



GENDER & TRANSGENDER WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Over the past fifteen years of touring, I've become an experienced workshop facilitator. I've got workshops on gender, queer theory, and postmodern whatever. But I'm curious to discover new ways to apply the theories. The bottom line of postmodern and queer theory is: can it help make your life and the lives of others more worth living? We'll talk.

Most recently, I've developed new edutainment workshop for medical professionals on standards of care for LGBTQQI... etc. patients. I've also put together a chalkboard workshop for

Buddhist youth on the subject of gender and *dharmā*. I'd love to create a workshop for you. Please, let's talk.

Or, you can pick from any of the workshops I've developed over the past few years. They're great for all audiences.

**Hello, Cruel World: An Outlaw's Mini-Guide to Survival**

Sometimes, whatever it is that gives you the most joy, pleasure or relief also gets you into the deepest trouble—especially when you try to explain it to other people. Like when you love someone you're not supposed to love.

Or when the way you express yourself makes other people queasy. As harmless as you feel you're being, people may still think you're bad, wrong or immoral. There are far too many people who are in that position in life, and it goes far beyond simply sex and gender. This workshop is 90-120 minutes of me talking with you about doing anything it takes to make your life more worth living. Anything. With the single rule: Don't be mean. I *love* doing this workshop. It's available with or without the truly fun audio/visual bells and whistles.

*workshops continue on the back page*



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How do we tear down the system that's wounding us? And what in the world does postmodern gender theory have to do with any of this??

When you put postmodern gender theory into practice, you dissolve the false binaries of gender and sexuality. You gently tear down the walls built by a bully culture with the purpose of dividing and conquering us. The walls between us come tumbling down, and we find ourselves living with more and different kinds of people—on a more personal, caring level—people we normally wouldn't hang out with.

Right now, we have the tools to dismantle—one by one—the *us-versus-them*, systemic oppressions that keep us divided as marginalized outlaws. That's what the practical application of postmodern gender theory might help accomplish in the world beyond the theory.

It's going to take a coalition—one that represents of all of us on any and every edge of the culture—to speak in a voice loud enough to rally ourselves into some social, political, and spiritual power for revolution.

Our walls *must* come down.

A coalition of all the outer limits folks would be huge! And noisy. And I'm sure we'd throw great parties!

So, I'm on the road. I'm looking for tribe. I aim to support any coalition-building activism and arts I find on my travels. I'll tell my stories, and I'll listen to as many stories as I possibly can. That's what gets me jazzed about this year. I hope I get to meet you, and listen to what you've got to say.



To contact me about an engagement please check out my [touring schedule](#) to see if I'm available for the dates you're considering. Then [send me an email](#), with the best times to reach you by phone. (I'm sorry, but with deadlines for my new book, I'm unable to answer personal emails.)

GENDER & TRANSGENDER WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Gender is what I know best. I'm currently touring with the following two gender workshops. Each of these workshops helps make gender theory more accessible. They also provide deeper, body and spirit *experience* of the theory.

**Your Gender: Now You See It, Now You Don't**

One of the basic tenets of postmodern gender theory is that gender is mutable. Theoretically, we're all capable of being/performing any gender we enjoy being, or need to be. The trick to developing this talent is to consciously shift our gender in two steps: first take your current gender off, then put another gender on.

That's much easier said than done, but this workshop will give attendees tools to play with their genders, in any way they choose.

This is a 90 minute to two-hour workshop for both small and large groups of people. I've also got a version of this workshop for acting students.

**How to Have a Gender-Free Orgasm\***

Could it really be possible to have an orgasm with your clothes on and without touching yourself or being touched by anyone else? Can you really reach ecstasy simply by breathing? Can gender possibly be irrelevant when it comes to orgasm?

In this workshop we'll explore the unlimited possibilities of orgasm, particularly the vast range of orgasms that lie beyond those achieved by genital stimulation.

Although this is a participatory workshop, here will be no nudity and you will not be asked to work with a partner. You could even invite the CEO or the Dean of Students.

\* This workshop, and the description of it here, were written and developed by [Barbara Carrellas](#), my partner and author of [Urban Tantra: Sacred Sex for the 21st Century](#). Barbara trained me on how to facilitate this workshop on my own, but it's a *lot* of fun if you bring the two of us.

Please check out [my road schedule](#), and [send me an email](#). I'll do my best to make it work so you can present these workshops where *you* live.

IN CLOSING, HERE'S A REAL EASY EXERCISE IN COALITION BUILDING:



Malaria kills more than a million kids a year. A million kids. If you've got \$10, or you get together nine of your friends for a dollar apiece, you can buy a simple bed net for a kid who needs one in order to get through the night without waking up lethally infected. My guess is these kids aren't your neighbors. They probably don't live on the same edge of the culture that you do. But they're tribe, they're family, and we can so easily help them out. I'm pretty sure that's the way to get into the spirit of coalition. [Please, click here](#) to buy a bed net, if you possibly can. That's the spirit!

I hope to see you soon. Hugs, kisses and respect, Kate