

# A GLIMPSE INSIDE... Queer Diary



In early March 2020 I booked a room in a pub for LGBTQ+ people to get together & share some of their teenage experiences in the form of diary entries.

but...  
WHY?

The aim was to create a space for Queer joy, angst, nostalgia, reflection, and above all solidarity. I wanted a space where we could have fun celebrating the wild range of Queer formative & coming-of-age experiences. Where we could commiserate the things that school didn't teach us, and applaud each other for surviving the tough times. I also wanted to raise money for some Queer charities & community orgs & for the development of my theatre show 'Hasbian', which is based on (you guessed it) my teenage diary.

But it was March 2020, so we all know what happened a couple of weeks later... **LOCKDOWN!**



However, being a child of the internet (my own teenage secrets were part written in a notebook, part saved on LiveJournal, and part shared with complete strangers on internet forums), I wasn't going to let being stuck at home stop me finding my people!

That's where QAF Space came in.

Over 6 months, from April to September, I used QAF's free LGBTQ+ Zoom channel to host Queer Diary on the first Sunday of every month.



During that time, 17 different people shared their teenage experiences in the form of diaries, stories, artwork and songs. Each time, a screen full of friendly faces showed up to bear witness, cheer readers on, join in the MSN-style sidebar chat, and make confessions about their own teenage years. They suggested songs for our school-disco playlist that reflected not only the wildly varying tastes amongst us, but also the various eras that we all grew up in (from the Bay City Rollers to tATu, from Queen Latifah to My Chemical Romance).



Best of all, because we weren't confined to a London pub anymore, we could reach across the world and include the experiences of Queers from France, Chile, Canada, and Bermuda. People were able to pop in for 20 minutes of the evening, or stay on for as long as they wanted for a chat after. We were able to include those whose health, access requirements or caring responsibilities meant they may not otherwise have been able to attend. Everyone could eat and drink whatever they wanted whenever they wanted. We got to hear from people who said they would have been far too nervous to stand up in front of a crowd, but got a kick out of virtually inviting the crowd into their living room for 10 minutes to hear about their first kiss.



Following this digital lockdown adventure, I'm determined to continue making Queer Diary even more accessible to more people, far and wide, shy and extroverted, to keep bringing us together online AND in person. To keep growing this project I'm applying for funding, so live events are on pause until 2021. You can follow #QueerDiary & @HasbianShow for updates, and until we're in the same room or zoom again, I hope you enjoy this little collection of extracts from some of the queer lives that were shared with QAF in 2020...

What's  
NEXT?

love from Beth x



LIKE MOST  
TEENAGERS  
OUR LIVES HAD  
THEIR SHARE  
OF TEENAGE

# ANGST!

I HATE my MOM she's  
a cow (sorry I mean Oh I  
don't no what to call her  
coz I like cows)

BUT  
WE  
HAD

14/03/97  
Today (my pet rat) Ricky died  
of heart failure so I've been  
completely sad all day.

ADDED  
HOMOPHOBIA  
BIPHOBIA  
TRANSPHOBIA!

WE  
OFTEN  
SADLY

What have I done to deserve a sister like  
Hayley, ~~mean~~ mean you would expect bullying  
to happen at school but not at home  
she always calls me boy lesbian, homosexual  
or gay it makes me work to hit her out

Just a small list of problems I have

1989 NOTES

- Lesbianism / Bisexualism
- Spots + Blackheads
- Mother hating (her habits cause this + her personality).
- I live in the past too much.
- Worms
- Bad breath
- I'm fat = Stretch Marks.
- Periods are a pain (not cramp sort of pain, just annoying).
- I get heavy discharge + periods.
- Bad clothes.
- Fart too Much

INTER  
NALIZ  
ED  
IT.

LUCKILY MANY OF US FOUND

JOY

IN CRUSHES

I think I was not on best snogging form as I was drunk but I don't think he cared or noticed. He's so tall but it worked somehow and it might have been a typical first drunken clumsy kiss but I loved it

♡♡♡♡♡

August 20 1993

Went to London today, it was pretty good. My feet ached pretty badly after walking round London Museum and the up + down Oxford street plus trip round Victoria etc. I got this link jacket 'cos we been wanting one for ages.

& IN CLOTHES



Me & Rachel & Lindsay stayed at Alyson's Dad's house & we watched Girl Interrupted & Level Intentions 2 & Bring It On & I stole some vodka & tried on a corset that made my boobs look HUGE!!!

FRUSTRATINGLY (DUE TO AFOREMENTIONED PHOBIAS) &  
A LACK OF EDUCATION FROM MANY OF OUR SCHOOLS &  
FAMILIES & BARRELY ANY REPRESENTATION IN THE MEDIA)  
THERE WAS A LOT OF **CONFUSION**

19/04/97

So confused I don't know  
how to write it down on paper,  
I don't know how to treat  
Rachael because she 'broke down'  
on Friday in art because she  
thought no one liked her and I  
know exactly how she feels and  
I feel sorry for her but Michelle  
doesn't like her and she does get  
boring. But she was so upset I took  
her to the toilets and Michelle  
didn't come and we kind of, well it's  
a bit difficult to describe err  
anyway it was like we connected or  
fixed some how and she's not ~~sooo~~ bad  
I've got some new shoes. Yipee!



Tonight ~ me + Lucy gave  
Pete a birthday present.  
We took him round behind the  
building and had a 3 way session.  
It was weird but cool.  
Pete was impressed + says he  
feels closer to me now. It's  
like a friendship - bonding - thing  
all 3 of us.

Is this... friendship?

I'm a bit confused about this whole  
lesbian thing (again) because as  
much as doing anything rude with  
a boy grosses me out I am still  
quite attracted to some of them and  
I dunno if it's just a fear of something  
I know nothing about. I might even  
like boys once I get the chance.

MOST OF US COPE WITH A HEALTHY  
DOSE OF TEENAGE

**LUST**

at, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 2:58pm

Woke up this morning and ~~I~~ realised that I:  
didn't feel like shit (this is closely related to the  
point below, methinks)

had slept more than 4 hours  
hadn't had dreams where either:



1) I just relive my best memories with E

2) I have weird sex dreams with girls that aren't  
about them at all ~~and~~ and are actually about  
because they have her mannerisms and personality

9<sup>th</sup> March 2003 **THE UNREQUITTED**

Woke up after the party on Saturday and  
made pancakes with Kate and oh Wah  
she just gets more gorgeous everytime I see her  
Her eyes are just stunning and her hips and her  
collar bone and her smile is so cute. Plus  
she has long fingers and is good at making  
pancakes.

# THE V MUCH MUTUAL



I really think that Mathews the person I've been waiting for he's a BAE he apparently fancies me and he's funny uses Lynx has NO pannels ~~and~~ tea and has a dog PERFECT he just seems so nice and so good-looking and so... GORGEOUS I go wobbly after I've seen him and want him to notice me



I'm going to Lindsay's house tomorrow to revise. we'll try & revise but somehow we always end up having sex. Oh well!

ALL MANY OF US NEEDED WAS SOMEONE TO TELL US ITS GREAT 2 BE GAY / BI / TRANS / ACE / PAN / LESBIAN /

OMG I just remembered, right after we first kissed I thought, maybe I am gay. so funny...

CPTO INTEREST

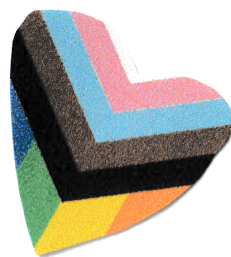
LGBTQQIP2SAA+

# QUEER!

If you enjoyed this zine, pls check out orgs we support below ↓

Community orgs & fundraisers to support / follow / donate to

The Outside Project  
@LGBTIQoutside



Exist Loudly  
@existloudlyuk

Colours Youth Network  
@COLOURSYOUTHUK



The Free Black University  
@freeblackuni

African Rainbow Family  
@AfricanRainbow1



Pink Peacock Cafe  
@dirozevepave

Free ZB Alliance  
@freezb\_alliance

