

## Belinda Scandal

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**PARTICIPANT:** My name's Belinda Scandal. I'm one of the drag queens here within the Village. I've been in the Village now for nearly nine years, and I do lots of live shows and get involved in as much stuff as I possibly can, really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** OK, great. When... obviously in this project we're looking at sexual health stuff, so I'd like to come back to you stuff in the Village, if that's alright. I was just wondering when you first heard of this thing called HIV, or AIDS, or whatever it was called.

**PARTICIPANT:** I guess I was a kind of... closeted gay really when it comes to HIV and AIDS. I had heard of it growing up, but didn't know too much about it or what its consequences were, or what the reality of it was really. Until I went and lived in Gran Canaria, I'd never met anyone with HIV. One of my closest friends has HIV, seems to be surviving absolutely fine with it and living absolutely fine with it, he's one of the happiest people going. And it was through learning that HIV wasn't a negative thing, necessarily, from him, that my horizons were broadened, I was educated by him really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** OK. What do you remember of growing up around that time, maybe dealing with your own sexuality... what do you remember of that kind of time?

**PARTICIPANT:** Coming out for me was a nightmare. Especially when the advert, the big AIDS advert came on television. It stops you in your tracks, an advert like that. I suppose it was there to educate, but to me it scared me, to the point where I went back to being, I suppose, going out with girlfriends and stuff like that. And I walked away from being my true self, simply because of that advert, I suppose. I suppose it scared me that much really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** What kinds of feelings did you have when you watched it? Could you describe the advert for someone who's not seen it?

**PARTICIPANT:** So the AIDS advert was these big slabs of stone on a cliff, and it falling over and cascaded all the way down. And when you're watching that and you're confused about your sexuality to start with, the feelings that it summons up inside you, it just puts fear. As a youngster, you think that a gay man is instantly, or consequentially, going to get AIDS. So it just put the fear of God in me really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** And you were saying that that maybe set you back a little bit in terms of your own, kind of-

**PARTICIPANT:** Well it did set me back, because I was trying to figure out who I was, and learning who I was. And in my mind I was getting to grips with it, albeit slowly. But like I say, when you suddenly figure out, in a youngster's mind, that this advert's there, and then you start hearing people saying that it's a gay disease, you're like, wow. That just adds on the prejudice that you're getting from other people, and then it adds on to your own mind. And it did, it held me back quite a lot really, just that one advert.

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**INTERVIEWER:** And what was the atmosphere like at the time? You know, at the time when the adverts came out. What was it like to be coming out as a gay, or-?

**PARTICIPANT:** Well I was still at school when the advert came out. And people at school were talking about. Now I'm originally from Wigan, which is the sportiest, machoest town on the planet really as far as I've come into. So there was a lot of talk about it in the schoolyard. In class there were a lot of jibes about AIDS, and you know, if people ever cut themselves for instance, then because of that advert everyone was going, be careful, you'll get the AIDS, you'll get the AIDS. And there was a lot of negative words used. Normally, you know, sometimes, as bullies, they'll use the words like "gay" and that's kind of that. But they were now using the words "AIDS"; you know, you'll get AIDS. I mean, HIV, like I say, I didn't learn about until a lot lot later. AIDS was the thing. So it kind of went on from there really, trying to educate yourself. And then there wasn't – for a young person like myself – a place, or... there was no Internet. You couldn't educate yourself. So you literally had this one advert that put the fear of God in you, and that was your education, really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** And do you think that... because that's come up quite a bit, and I'm just wondering what impact that had on the generation of people who were coming to terms with stuff. Do you think it had an impact?

**PARTICIPANT:** Well I spoke to a lot of my friends that are my age, and they have recalled the same experience really. And how it kind of pushed them back from wanting to develop and learn about themselves, really, because of that one advert. I still think about that advert. I don't know what the purpose of that advert was, really. It was just a kind of... for me, a fear propaganda advert really, slapped in the middle of these TV programmes.

[00:05:28]

**INTERVIEWER:** OK. What was it like at home? Because as well as the adverts, I guess, there were the leaflets that got delivered to all the houses, I don't know if you remember that. But what was it like, and... your adolescence, growing up in Wigan – just generally, how was that?

**PARTICIPANT:** It was a strange time for me. I was always into theatrical stuff. Always into that. I was told by my mother, that if you ever thought you were gay, not to be, because it's a very lonely life. So add onto that the fact that my father had died, so I was kind of the head of the household, and it was in Wigan as well, so there was a lot of things pushing me not to figure out – and I say figure out, because I was a little bit confused when I was in my mid-teens – to figure out exactly who I wanted to be and who I was, really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** And what helped you in that process, do you think?

**PARTICIPANT:** The thing that helped me in that process was when I was 17. We moved house, and we moved into a little place called Lowton. And because of that, moving away from the family home, I decided to up sticks and I went and moved to Southport, working for Pontins. So I got away. And then obviously, I'm immersed with a load of other gay people, and a load of theatricals as well. And it just became an instant relaxation, an instant calm, to know that... and I did feel like, you're not the only gay, basically. And I did, when I was living in Wigan, feel I was the only one.

There was a history teacher when I was in year 10. And he turned round in the middle of the class, and turned round to this lad and said, if you do think you are gay, don't say anything, because you're likely to get bullied. And I didn't go back to his class. I still got a B though in History, so that was alright. I didn't go back to his class – Mr. Scott. I shouldn't name, but I remember that very well.

[00:07:34]

**INTERVIEWER:** Wow. OK. So could you say a little bit more about Pontins and your time there and how it was, and the friends you made?

**PARTICIPANT:** I joined Pontins in 1997, and that was the year that Princess Diana died. So it was a rollercoaster of a year. I had to learn all these shows. I'd done amateur stuff and a bit of television beforehand, but I'd never been properly put on a big stage like that. It was fabulous. And there was my first relationship. I got together with a guy there, and that was kind of alright, it went OK. Until I found him cheating on me one day in the chalet with one of the dancers. But that was that-

Yeah, it was good. And it was good to be in a relationship, because you suddenly... I'd had all these female relationships, but I'd never had a male relationship – I'd had male dalliances, but I hadn't had a male relationship. And it was a proper eye-opener. But talking about the AIDS and the HIV thing, you know, it had obviously dripped into my brain that you've got to be safe and you've got to be careful. I obviously didn't know his past, and he obviously didn't know my past, and it was kind of an unwritten rule that we were always safe. So the advert, as much as I've said negative things about it, obviously had an effect to make me, you know, be aware of, and stand up and be sensible about things as well.

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**INTERVIEWER:** Sorry, one of my batteries has just gone. [Interviewer changes mic battery.]

**PARTICIPANT:** What was I saying?

[00:09:08]

**INTERVIEWER:** So you were just chatting about your relationship and how it-

**PARTICIPANT:** Yeah, so I'd got into this relationship, and I suppose the advert had had a good effect on me as well as a negative effect, because within that relationship it was unwritten, it was kind of deep in my mind that you had to be safe, and how to be safe I suppose as well. So it had a good effect on me, it's had an education on me. I just wish they hadn't made it as scary as they did, because had they educated – I mean, I never saw any leaflets come through the door. And if they had they would have been instantly destroyed by my mother, because she wanted grandchildren, bless her, so I would never have seen anything like that.

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**INTERVIEWER:** Was it ever a problem getting hold of condoms? Or how did you get hold of condoms – did you go to the chemist, what was that like, or did you get safer sex packs, or...?

**PARTICIPANT:** My first boyfriend at the time, he seemed to have a stock of them. Which in hindsight makes sense because he was obviously a bit of a cheat. But he seemed to have a stock of them already.

We used to buy them from the pub, or the toilets in the pub. Which was always a bit strange to do, you always felt a bit uncomfortable doing it, especially when you didn't have a girlfriend, you know what I mean, and you had a boyfriend, and the boyfriend was there. So you always felt that people were like, frowning down at you, looking down at you, for doing nothing other than being safe. I mean that's what they're there for, condoms, isn't it?

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**INTERVIEWER:** Yeah. You said your relationship was a bit of an eye-opener in terms of, you'd had these relationships with girlfriends... why do you think that was, why was it so eye-opening to be in a relationship with a guy?

**PARTICIPANT:** It was eye-opening for me with this particular guy because he'd come out years and years beforehand, and to him it was a breeze, being who he wanted to be, being gay, being, you know, the extrovert that he was, was at ease for him. And for me, I suppose I'd suppressed so much of who I was that it was like, why are you able to be like that? And sometimes it was almost, I felt embarrassed for him being open, and then looking back at it, you think, well that was him being brave and standing up for who he wanted to be, really. He was Asian, and he was gay, and he was just like, totally out and fine with it all. And it was like, how can you do that? How do I do that?

[00:11:54]

**INTERVIEWER:** Great. So what kind of memories do you have of Pontins? Like things you were... production, or what was your role there? Did you get involved in putting on shows there?

**PARTICIPANT:** So I was a singer at Pontins. And the big show of the year was Summer Holiday. So I got to play Cliff Richard. [laughs] Which was the most bizarre thing ever. We had this big wooden bus, that we had to climb up a ladder to stand behind, to be able to wave out the window. It was the weirdest thing ever. And it was the first time that I'd had my own cabaret show together. And most of the other blue coats in the smaller room, and for some reason it was deemed I got put in the big room. So every Thursday evening at ten o'clock, I was put in front of this massive audience and told to entertain them. Well, it was scary, to say the least. But the Summer Holiday thing was fun, because I got to work with a band, which I'd never done before, it was all backing tapes on cassette. And it was just great. It was the best training. I always say to people that are wanting to get into entertainment, if you haven't got the money to go to drama school, don't worry about it – get a job at one of the holiday camps, because that's the best training going. Because you learn everything; you learn how to deal with people, you learn how to put a show on, you learn how to... just the best education ever. I'm very passionate about holiday entertainment.

[00:13:20]

**INTERVIEWER:** Cool! What's your... do you have... what did you take away from [it]? I guess you talk about it in a way that it was a training for you. As a person, do you feel like you changed during your time at Pontins?

**PARTICIPANT:** I most certainly changed when I was at Pontins. Just because, like I say, it was encouraged to be whoever you wanted to be. There were extroverts there, there were screaming queens there, and it was like, wow. This is good. I can be who I want to be. Which was lovely. I think I became camper [laughs] the longer I was there. And whilst I was there was the first time that I did drag as well. And they actively encouraged that. They wanted me to do a show called Lips & Lashes, and we did that towards the end of the season, and it was an adult show, and they encouraged it. Which was like, you almost felt like telling the boss, how can you be encouraging things like this? Because that's the way my brain was – you shouldn't be encouraging them being, you know, happy about people being like this, because all my life, people had said no, that's not the way you should be. So it was great, yeah.

[00:14:43]

**INTERVIEWER:** So, could you tell me a little bit about what happened after- why did you leave, did you just want to move on? And what happened next?

**PARTICIPANT:** I left Pontins... where did I go after Pontins? God only knows. Oh, I went to live in Blackpool after I'd been to Pontins, which again, you can imagine,

from going from Pontins, which was inclusive and inviting about being who you are, to working in Blackpool, where everybody's totally who they wanted to be. Walking the first time into what was called Flamingos, I don't know if it's still there or not, and everybody's there dressed in their best, and they're all looking so smart and everything. And I was like, this is bizarre. It's bizarre that there is an actual place. I hadn't heard about the Village, you see. I didn't know nothing about the Village. Had I known about the Village earlier on, with it only being half an hour away, I think my life could have been more different. But I didn't know nothing about the Village, so my foray into the proper gay world was in Blackpool. And it was wonderful, everyone was there all dressed- this was the nineties, where people would wear Spice Girl shoes that were like *that*, and the tightest of lycra tops, and they would just be whatever they want. There were drag queens there that would literally glue spikes onto their head, and it was like, wow. And that's when I decided that I wanted to try doing the drag.

As it happens, it fell into my lap really quite easily, because I was invited to do a show at North Pier with Cannon & Ball. And they had a Danny La Rue impersonator, that had to have ten cherry lemonades before they went on stage, literally. I'm on stage being the man on the tuxedo, singing "love, love changes everything" and all I heard behind was dud-dud-dud-dud, and he fell down this staircase. The curtain came down, and I'm stood there, not even finished my number, and they're putting me in his drag. And from that, my wages increased threefold, simply because I was now a speciality act, because I was singing, but I was singing in a dress. And it was like, wow.

So it was a constant education really, to being who you wanted to be. And of course, the Belinda character was just... it was a nice comfort blanket at the time, to escape from what I thought was the negatives in life about being gay. As it turns out, it's not really a necessity to hide away, really, for me. And I've learned the courage to tell people if they don't like what I am, they can get lost. But that's all through my training from the holiday camps and the holiday centres, and Blackpool. It was just great.

I got cast as Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz whilst working in Blackpool. And this is an old people's hotel, the Metropole. And they'd never seen nothing like it. And it was just... but they never complained, they thought it was brilliant. Because they kept relating it back to Danny La Rue. Now Danny La Rue for the older person was like, mint, it was the RuPaul of the day, basically. And they were just lapping it up big style. They loved it. It was just great, a great education.

[00:17:59]

**INTERVIEWER:** You mentioned that in a way Belinda, I mean you said quite a bit, is this kind of comfort blanket. But what does drag mean for you, and what does it do for you?

**PARTICIPANT:** Drag, to start off with, was like I say, a comfort, it was my escapism. It was a way of telling most people that I'm me, this is me, you know. And then as the years have gone on, they've merged. And for me now it's simply, drag for me is a lovely job, but because of the job that I do, people want to speak to you, and

people around the Village call me Auntie Belinda because they know they can come to me with any of their problems. And that's what's been absolutely lovely about creating this whole character. Because I am there, for anybody. And they know that when they find me, they can take me to one side and I'll give them the time, whether I've got to get on stage or not, they've got my time. And I'll try and assist them as much as I can really.

[00:19:01]

**INTERVIEWER:** OK, great. And in terms of your own... I mean, we talked about your relationship at Pontins and stuff, was Blackpool a sexy time, was it... or were you working quite a lot, or, like, what w-

**PARTICIPANT:** Blackpool was a total mashup for my head really. Because I had various partners there. And it was the first time you could, in my world, that I could approach a bloke I fancied and tell him that I fancied him. Which again, because of my youth and everything, you felt dirty doing. But it was great. It was really really nice to be able to be open, to be what I wanted to be, really. Yeah. There were quite a few dalliances down there. And it was good. Because it was the first time that- because at Pontins, there was only me and the other gay guy, in my mind we'd only got together because, you know, there was only us two there, that's the way it was. But in Blackpool, people were approaching me, I was approaching them, and it was the first time I felt attractive, as well, which was a new entity in itself really. Because obviously I'd got with these girls, I liked the look of them, they were all blonde, big tits, I mean, they were all gorgeous, the girls I got with, but blokes, I hadn't figured out what I liked. I'd gone with what was available, until Blackpool. And then these people were coming to me, and it was all.. it was great. I'm still in contact with one of them now, and it still feels bizarre, all these years later, to be still in contact with somebody who helped me learn me.

[00:20:46]

**INTERVIEWER:** Because you've travelled quite a bit, haven't you, you've been to a different places. Could you tell us a little bit about that?

**PARTICIPANT:** So I went from Blackpool, I went to Ibiza. Which I remember very little about. Very very little! That was the... I shouldn't be admitting this, but that was the time when drugs were introduced to me. And I'd never experienced anything like it in my life. It was like... I seriously think out of the six months I was there, I lost four months. I really think it was that bad. Because we were working, I was doing my show, and then we were going out partying, and because the show was doing well, we were getting invited to all these VIP- well you can't turn down a VIP suite, you can't, because that's where all the free drinks are, it saved me a fortune! And then there was other stuff, other powdered stuff, shall we say, on mirrors and stuff, and it was just party central for me, proper party central. It was great.

[00:21:45]

**INTERVIEWER:** OK. In that time, do you think... just bringing it back a bit to sexual health stuff, how... I guess it's difficult to say, but how do you think... the people

around you, that people were aware of stuff, or not so much? Or like, has it changed over the years?

**PARTICIPANT:** It seemed to me that people were getting a bit cocky with sexual health when I was in Ibiza. They were almost bragging about not being safe. And that worried me ridiculously. Like I say, until I went to Gran Canaria, which was the year after, I hadn't met anybody with HIV. You know, you'd heard about it, you knew about it, you knew it was dangerous, but you hadn't... In Ibiza they were just daft with it, they'd boast about it. There was one guy who was boasting that he had HIV, but by the end of the night somebody else will have it so it doesn't really matter. And you're like, that's just evil. I always said, that's kind of like, setting up a murder, really. It's wrong. People shouldn't be treated like that.

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**INTERVIEWER:** So do you want to tell us a little bit more about your time in Gran Canaria, and maybe your friend? Because at one point you said that they educated you in terms of... yeah.

**PARTICIPANT:** Yeah. So he was... in Gran Canaria, he was the assistant manager of a club that we'd been brought into, called Cafe La Belle. And he was just gorgeous looking. The bluest of bluest eyes. And really good, he looked gorgeous. Now, in my mind, because I'd not met anybody with HIV before properly, [I thought] they shouldn't look like that, they should look ill. You know, the film Philadelphia had come out. They should look like he does at the end. And he didn't. And he's still, to this day, because he's still ticking along, like I say, he'll outlive the cockroaches, I'm sure he will. He still is as fresh as a daisy, and he still parties, and he still lives his life properly. And there's just nothing that seems to grind him down. I owe him for my career in Manchester, because he knew the people within the New Union, who first employed me when I came back to Manchester. So I owe him an awful, awful lot. I mean, he's sometimes a proper bitch, but he's just... he's an education. He dresses it up a lot in bravado. And I have been with him some on occasions where he feels really really really really low. But then the next minute he'll just snap out of it. He's... a great guy. A lot of people dislike him. But that's because he's not let them see the real him. And he's just... he's lovely. He's great.

[00:24:41]

**INTERVIEWER:** OK. So you mentioned the New Union, coming to Manchester. Could you tell us about that, and how your career started here?

**PARTICIPANT:** So I came back from Gran Canaria after trying to escape my ex that was over there. Oh God. Men. So I left the country – I had a really good career over there, but I needed to get away. I'd done long enough over there and I just wanted to get away and get back to what I class as normality – a bit of rain was nice, to be honest, when you've lived in the sun. Plus, we were working till three, and then we're not seeing the daytime, so what's the point of being in a sunny climate anyway? So I escaped, and I still say it's escaped, and came back to Manchester. And I couldn't find any work, because I hadn't been to the Village. I'd been once or twice.

And the guy that was my assistant manager over there had already moved back, and he introduced me to the managers of the New Union, who then subsequently gave me a job DJing, but wouldn't let me sing, because it all had to be mimed. And you're like what? Why are you not letting me sing? So I ended up playing – me, look at me now – Rihanna. I was dressed as Rihanna for the show for about eight months. And they would not let me, no matter what I tried, do any singing or any live stuff at all. So it was time to move on. So I got a job at Spirit, I got a job at Churchill's. And as I was working at Spirit, two guys that owned the Basement sauna in Gran Canaria poached me, and they took on the Rembrandt. And I guess the rest is kind of history really.

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**INTERVIEWER:** So can you tell us a little bit, describe a little bit, what your shows... the kind of shows that you've done, your kind of like... your best memories really, of this time you've had in Manchester?

**PARTICIPANT:** So my shows have been live. At the moment- I used to do 32 minutes on stage, singing live. At the moment I'm doing three 47 minute shows within an evening. Plus, I do quick changes. One of my numbers that I've got has four quick changes in one three-minute number. We've now got a video screen behind us, which we're really happy about, because we've got to move towards technology really now. And I'm being looked after properly now by a guy called Tony Cooper, who's majorly important in the Village – you'd be good speaking to him actually, the stories that he's got about Manchester... because he's been around since before they invented slate. So he's got loads and loads of great stories.

We were talking yesterday about giving blood, and how gay men still can't give blood and it doesn't make sense. He lost his partner – his partner got knocked down just down the road, and he was told that he couldn't give blood. So he felt that he couldn't help his partner out, really. And you know, stuff like that. And then he came up with best question yesterday, ever, and I'd never thought about it. He said, how many times have you come out? And of course, everybody around the table says, once. And he says, no, you come out every day. You have to come out to somebody every day, because you have to explain yourself to somebody almost every day. And it was like, wow, I've never thought of it like that before. Yeah. He's an eye-opener, he really is.

[00:28:09]

**INTERVIEWER:** So, thinking about that question, how does it feel to you to come out every day? If all of us are coming out in some ways, every day having to explain stuff, what kinds of responses do you get, what kinds of... yeah?

**PARTICIPANT:** It's strange really, because I've grown into my own skin so much over the past twenty years, that cockily I have to say, I don't care what people think about me. I am me, and because of what I've gone through to be me, I think, fuck 'em if they don't want me to be me. So as much as coming out every day, yes I probably do, and yes I probably have to explain myself, or still feel that, you know, in

certain situations, there's certain ways to act. I don't care anymore. It's about being you. And I've been through a lot of rubbish to get to being me. I mean even just walking from one end of the street to this end of the street in full on drag... it's therapy. It's lovely to be who I am these days.

[00:29:29]

**INTERVIEWER:** Great. We've talked to people about their experience of... [laughs] this is coming back to the sexual health stuff – like, over time, their experiences of accessing sexual health services. So maybe getting tested, or things like that.

**PARTICIPANT:** I first got tested at GAY. First, ever in my lifetime, a year and a half ago. I'd never been tested. Never been tested. I don't know why I'd never been tested. I suppose it was a fear thing. When I went to get a little pinprick on my finger, the nerves that were within me, honestly, I've never felt nervous like it in my life. And I suddenly thought, why have I not been tested before? It's not like I've been shy with the people I've been with, do you know what I mean? I should be tested, but I've never had a full health check. Because... I think it relates back to the stigma of my youth really, is it a bad thing? I mean, I know I'm always safe no matter what I do, but it's just... I don't know why I'd never done it. And it was that moment when they did the pinprick and I suddenly thought, is that it? I'd been building this in my mind for years and years and years, like, I can't have this done, because I can't, because that's just, ooh, and it was like- major. But really it was nothing. And then I thought, why have I not had it done? So now I make a point of getting myself checked. And these days there's less point to doing it because I'm with the same partner. I'm now married, so there's no point really, because when you're married you have less sex anyway, so it doesn't really matter does it!? But... yeah. It was such a scary situation, just to walk into that. Well, you felt judged. I did feel judged. And then I thought, get yourself together, this is stupid. Everybody else is here for the same reason. There's nothing bad about it. And I think that's what needs to be drummed into the younger people these days: just be checked and be sensible and be safe. But have as much as you want, really, because that's what life's about.

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**INTERVIEWER:** Great. Did it make a difference to you that it was at GAY? Because obviously when testing initially started out, it was only available at GUM clinics, and you had to go and, whatever – do you think that's made a difference?

**PARTICIPANT:** I don't think I would have been tested if it'd been out of my comfort zone, which is the Village. I don't think I would have done it. Because I don't know if this is right or not, because like I say, I've never done it properly before. But you have to get an appointment, do you?

[00:32:12]

**INTERVIEWER:** Yeah, some of them are drop-ins but it can take quite a long time

**PARTICIPANT:** And then you're waiting for your result... and obviously if they're bigger places, you're going to be waiting for longer. So no, I probably wouldn't have

tested if it hadn't been somewhere in the Village. Which is... they seem to be popping up up and down the Village a lot, which is great. But like I say, the young people need to know that they need to go, really. Oh, that rhymes! They need to know, that they need to go. Yes!

[00:32:47]

**INTERVIEWER:** Some poetry! Great, OK. So we're coming... I was just going to ask you whether there's anything that you wanted to talk about that maybe we haven't covered so far? Anything you want to mention?

**PARTICIPANT:** No.

[00:33:07]

**INTERVIEWER:** OK. Well, what do you see- I mean, you talked a bit about the younger generation. What do you see the future of- your future, but also maybe the future in terms of HIV awareness and stuff? What do you see coming?

**PARTICIPANT:** I think for me, if I could have my own way with the future, I'd like everybody to be educated. I'd like these young people to know first of all, what Pride's about, what journey the HIV journey has gone through, you know. I think it's education really for me, that I'd like to see more of. I almost feel, and I know it never will be - it should be taught within a school. Because there's a lot of confused people out there, and I can say that because I was. And had I had more education about a) it's alright to be gay, it's alright to be different, and b) this HIV isn't a stigma that should be attached to anybody anymore, it should be educated and taught and people be aware of it and be safe, and taught how to be safe. Because in school, certainly in my day, you were taught reproduction's about this, this know, but you're not taught the bare bones of it really, about having a relationship, and the different types of relationships, and you're taught that a girl can get pregnant, but you're never taught that a gay guy can get HIV. You're never taught that. And I think they should be equally taught. So I suppose equality, and education, is the way forward really, for HIV, and certainly, the gay world.

[00:34:52] End of transcript.