FREE
DUDE
TRANSMASCULINITY
#1

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It is impossible to be able to represent every single person's identity within this guide. We have made the best effort to be as diverse as possible.

Best Intentions

There are many different types of gender and sexual identities and some can't even be classified with a name or label. Sexual desire and pleasure are very fluid things that can change depending on the situation. Our sexual interests can also change over time as we ourselves change and grow.

As a society we have many rules and limitations ingrained within our daily lives and this can sometimes leak into areas which should be totally free for adventure and exploration. Being able to explore in a safe and healthy way will not only enhance the pleasure but also empower our emotional health.

At the end of the day we all have individual interests and needs, so let's be kind to ourselves and each other, respect boundaries and make the effort to communicate or negotiate them prior to playing!

About Dude

DUDE's aim is to enable transguys to have more hot safe sex in more places with more people.

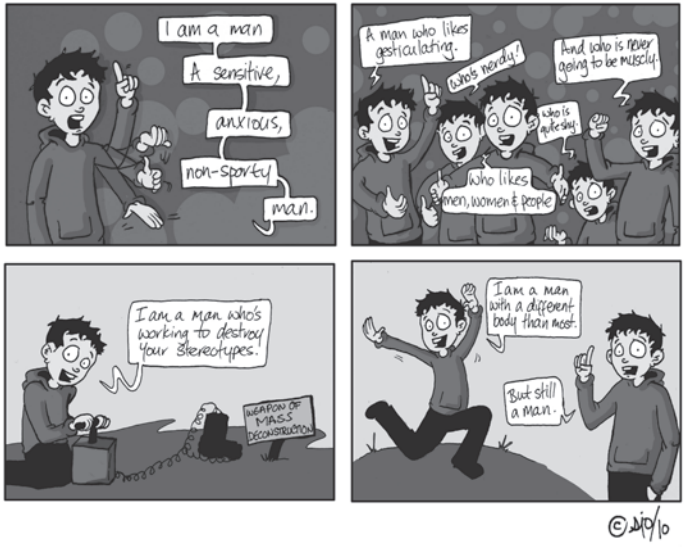
Hopefully DUDE. provides some helpful information and language to facilitate interactions between transguys and anyone who is interested in playing with us.

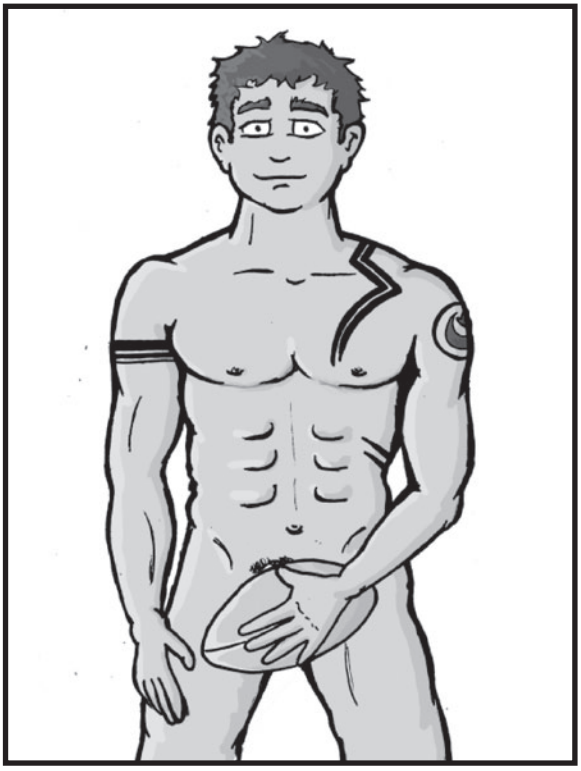
Sexuality is extremely diverse and DUDE's opinion unlimited. DUDE.is a recipe for serving up a diverse menu of hot exploration. Whether you are vegetarian or not, transguys pack some hot meat and we are ready to serve.

Gender identity and sexual identity are two separate things.

Gender identity is the gender a person self-identifies as and may not be directly the same as their biological sex or genitalia. Gender identity for most people in the world matches their biological gender and these people are "cisgendered" or "non-trans". But for transguys our gender identity did not match up with the biological gender we were born with and therefore we are "transgendered".

Sexual identity is a person's sexual orientation. Sexual desire can be felt for any person regardless of their gender or non-gender. Trans guys can be heterosexual, bisexual, pansexual, homosexual or queer identified.





TRANSMASCULINITY

— A ROUGH GUIDE —

WHO WE ARE

When using the term "transguys" We're referring to male-indentified people who were assigned female at birth. In the gender identity spectrum it may also encompass masculine identified gender queers, female to male transsexuals, transmasculine folk and female to male transgendered people.

Other terms that are often used are
transboy,
transman,
transmen,
boi,
transfag,
trans,
man,
FTM
and F2M.

There are more terms out there other than this and if you are unsure it is ok to ask someone which term they prefer.

Transguys are not all the same.

We are very diverse and don't all share the same personal identities. Be clear on the fact that sexual identity is totally different to gender identity. Some transguys are femme, feminine, masculine, butch, faggy, queer, bisexual and straight. Some of us might be all of these things at once!

This means that transguys don't all look the same or act the same way. You also may not be able to know if someone is a transguy just by looking at them or talking to them. All transguys are different and having sex with a trans guy is only a different experience because that person is an individual and not because they are trans.

COCKS & HOLES

Transguys do have cocks. And they can get hard!

If a transguy has been taking testosterone then chances are their transcock/junk would have grown bigger. A transcock is beautifully sexy and it enjoys all things that a cisgendered cock would enjoy also.

Keep communicating with your transguy lover to be able to work out how to suck, jerk and touch the transcock right. For even bigger and harder fun a transguy may like to strap on a cock and fuck you for hours without getting soft!

Some transguys like to be fucked in their front hole/boy hole and some don't. Some might only like it in the arse or to not be fucked at all.

Simply ask your trans guy lover how they like to play. These questions are only appropriate if you have both consensually entered into a sexual dynamic. Please don't ask these types of questions just out of curiosity alone.

TESTOSTERONE

Not all transguys choose to take testosterone and this doesn't mean that they are any less male or masculine in their identity.

Testosterone therapy is what physically transforms a transguy to have a more masculine appearance. There are different ways to take testosterone such as cream, but the most common method is by intramuscular injection. After being trained by a doctor, transguys self inject into their butt or upper thigh.

This type of therapy creates muscular development, dick growth, hair growth, voice changes, and other changes which potentially only need concern the trans guy himself. Monthly bleeding eventually stops also.

It is important to remember that testosterone therapy is medication and not everyone feels comfortable talking about their private medical history and it isn't really appropriate to be asking questions.
Unless of course you are wearing a nurses uniform!

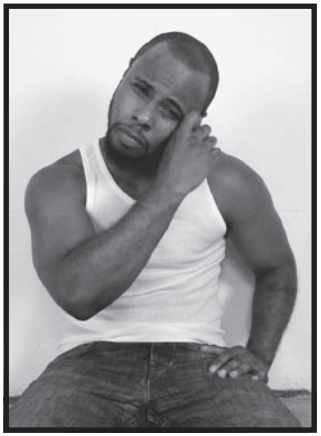
CHESTS

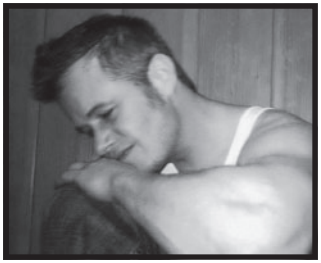
Some transguys will have had chest reconstructive surgery, otherwise known as top surgery. This surgery will result in guys having a male chest. Some guys may not yet have had this surgery due to time and financial restrictions, personal circumstances, access to health care or it is also possible they don't want to have surgery at all.

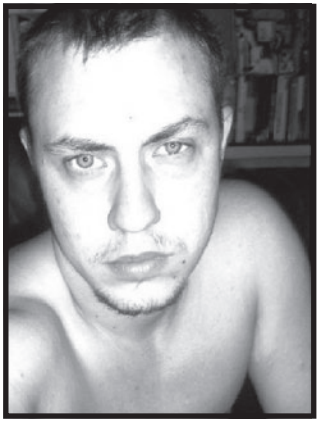
Some trans guys will flatten their chest by way of binding and some won't.

Chest flattening is most commonly done with a binder, which is a tight garment worn under clothing. A transguy may prefer to leave his binder on during sex.

Prior to playing with a trans guy it is a good idea to communicate about their boundaries with regard to their chests. Some may like their nipples played with and some may not. Some guys might not enjoy any contact with their chest area at all. This will vary from person to person, so just ask them what they enjoy and don't enjoy.







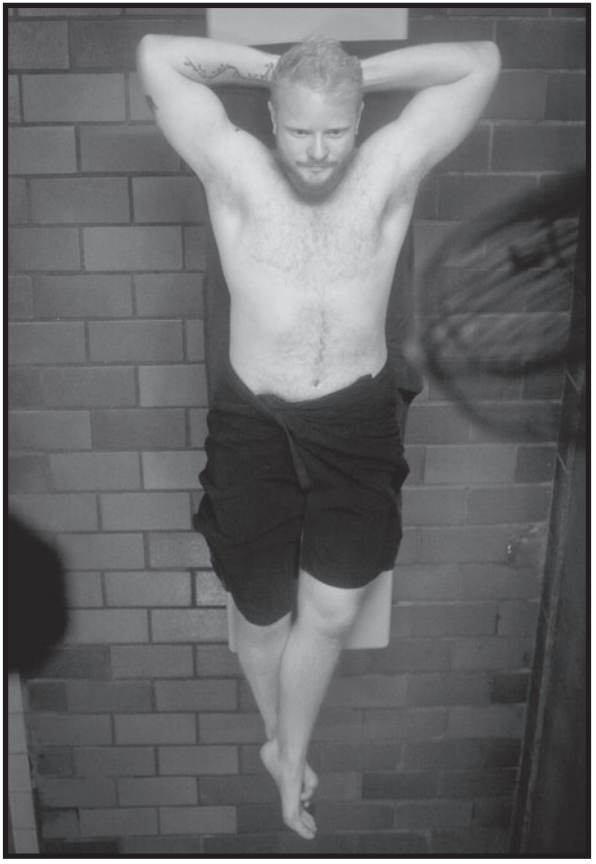
HAIR

Some people regardless of their gender have a natural ability to grow facial hair without hormone therapy.

If a trans guy has chosen to go on testosterone therapy then there is a chance they will grow facial hair. Facial hair can grow within months for some guys and others it can take years. Depending on the genes within their family some guys can end up with some serious facial hair action and others might not end up growing much at all.

This is exactly the same for cisgendered men. Some can grow beards and some can't. Not being able to grow a beard does not mean that person is any less masculine.

And also like cisgendered men, trans guys can end up hairy in many other parts of their body! Chest, arms, legs, belly, butt and butt crack!



Transguys are active members of the Bear community!

DISCLOSURE

It is really important to understand that disclosing someone's trans status can put a transguy in awful danger. The danger could be physical harm or it could lead to harassment or prejudice. It could seriously threaten someone's life. In a work place it can cause ongoing damage to one's career and put a transguy in some extremely uncomfortable situations that are really upsetting.

It isn't OK to gossip about knowing that someone is transgendered and it is best to keep it private should you happen to find out. The transguy should be the only one to negotiate the boundaries around disclosure and he should feel within total control of this information. If you feel as though there may be a case to disclose someone's trans status then respectfully ask the transguy if it is ok and explain why you would be doing it. It is most likely that a transguy will feel really respected and appreciate it immensely.

One other thing to remember is that if a trans guy is active in the community and a lot of people know that he is trans it still doesn't mean that he wants everyone in the world to know he is trans. For all we know a transguy could be using an alias to protect his privacy.

In a dating or hooking up scenario it can be quite nerve racking to come out as trans because of the unknown and unpredictable impending reaction.

PLAY SAFE

You may be playing with someone who has HIV or other STIs, which is why you should always take steps to look after yourself and your partner/s and play safely.

Playing safe means being able to enjoy sex more often with more people. Honesty and communication are key to knowing the facts as you can't always tell if someone has an STI just by looking at them. Symptoms aren't always visible and some people may be unaware if they have an STI. STI's are really common so the best way to avoid contracting an STI is to practice safe sex and to get tested regularly. Regular testing is considered to be every 6 – 12 months, it all depends on your level of activity. If you are very sexually active it might be wise to get tested every 3 months.

Using barriers such as condoms, gloves and dams in conjunction with water based lubricant can prevent HIV and STI transmission. Using lube can prevent the barrier from breaking during sex. It is also a good idea to use a dam when rimming.

Oral sex is still an area to be safe. A risk reduction measure you can take is to avoid oral sex if you have mouth ulcers, bleeding gums or cold sores. If you get fluids in your mouth, it is best to spit or swallow immediately as this will reduce the risk of transmission.

Not all, but some trans guys still have the ability to get pregnant. So don't assume you can fuck without a condom and not worry about getting pregnant. Once a transguy has been on testosterone for a while they will know when they are no longer able to get pregnant.

TRANS FLAGGING

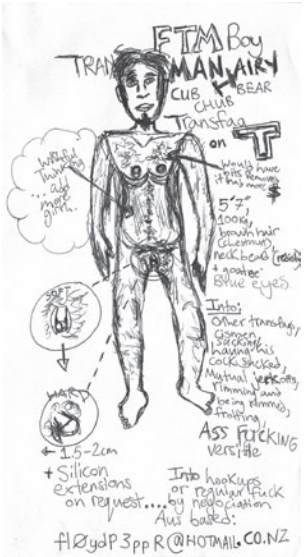
by Max Attitude

There are many (especially sexual) contexts in which one's transness can be unwantedly invisible or come into question in ways we'd rather it didn't. Flagging involves wearing a handkerchief, ribbon or armband on the body (or back pocket) to indicate (and attract) sexual interest.

'Flagging opinicus rampant' is an all gender queer hanky code which resists trans invisibility. A transdude flag has been established (purple flannel), as well as trans grrl (purple gingham) and genderqueer (purple sequins). While you can't assume someone's junk from a trans flag (trans people can have all kinds of junk [as can anyone else] and want to fuck in all kinds of ways), [trans] flagging does work to initiate conversations about sex, bodies and boundaries.

For more info and a comprehensive (pan gender and trans inclusive) queer hanky code guide, go to flaggingopinicusrampant.wordpress.com

maxattitude.wordpress.com



GLOSSARY & TERMS

Words to describe our gender and identity can vary in meaning depending on the person and context but generally most people would probably prefer you to use these more appropriate terms.

Breast Surgery / Mastectomy: Chest surgery, top surgery, chest reconstruction.

Breasts: Chest, manchest.

Vagina: Junk, cock, front hole, package, bits, boyhole.

Clitoris: Junk, cock, penis, dick, package, bits.

Toys: Cock, dick, strap-on, harness, pack.

Genital surgery: Lower surgery

Chest flattening garment: binder, strapping.

Menstruation / Period: monthly bleeding.

This can be really simple, just use your brain and be sensitive and ask someone in a respectful way if you are unsure. Think before you speak and if you sense that a word may be inappropriate or uncomfortable for a trans guy, then consider if it really needs to be said or asked at all.

On the following page are some commonly used terms here in Australia. There is no worldwide agreement on definitions, many words have different meanings according to who you talk to, depending on context, politics, place, or culture, and are continually contested. We respect that some people may not agree with the definitions below and respect everyone's right to identify in any way they choose. This isn't supposed to be an exhaustive list, there are many more but hopefully it's a useful start.

Gender: can refer to biological sex, social roles or gender identity. There are many genders, however the most commonly recognised are male and female.

Gender affirmation: (often known as gender reassignment): the physical, legal and social process of transitioning gender. May include surgery/hormone treatment, changing name, using a different pronoun, and changing your birth certificate gender.

Gender binary: is the classification of sex and gender into two separate categories of masculine and feminine. Most societies divide people into these two distinct categories which excludes many people who don't fit neatly into either category.

Gender expression: is how someone presents their gender to the world. This can mean through the way a person physically presents as well as the way they act. This can be through appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions.

Gender identity: refers to a person's internal sense of being male, female, something other, or in between. Everyone has a gender identity regardless of whether they are trans* or not.

Gender neutral pronouns: any pronoun other than he/his/him or she/her such as ze/hir/zir, it/its, they/their/them, robot/robots, one, heart/hearts or anything else that someone may choose to use.

Genderqueer: refers to people who do not identify as, or who do not express themselves as, completely male or female. Genderqueer people may or may not identify as trans*. Those who identify as Genderqueer may or may not feel the need to utilise hormone therapy and/or surgery options.

Non Trans/Cisgender: Having a gender identity or gender role that society considers appropriate for the sex one was assigned at birth.

Pronouns: are the words we use as substitutes for peoples names. There are gendered pronouns such as he/his/him and she/her as well as gender neutral pronouns (see above).

Trans*: can be used as an umbrella term to include many experiences of sex and gender: trans, transsexual, transgender, genderqueer etc.

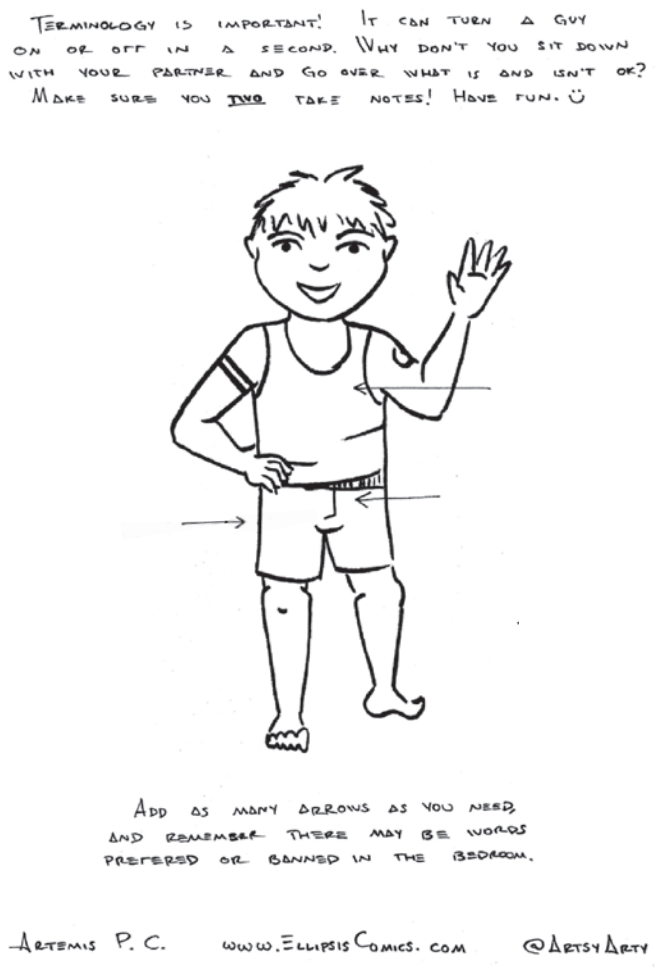
Transgender: an umbrella term and identity used to describe all kinds of people who sit outside the gender binary or whose gender identity is different from the sex assigned to them at birth. May or may not feel the need to access hormone therapy and/or surgery.

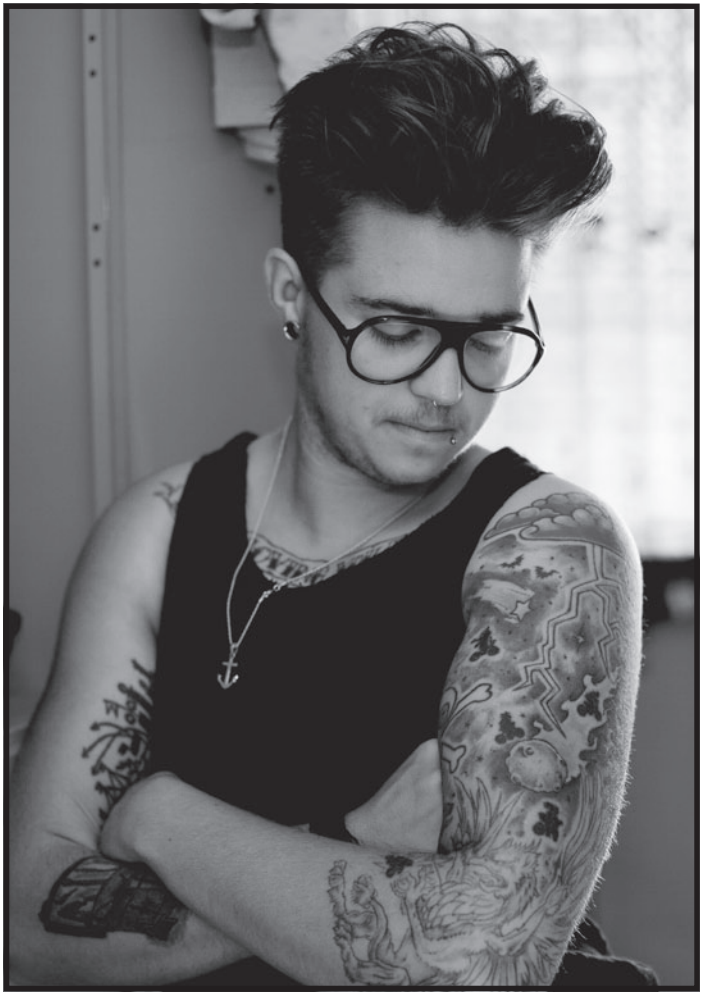
Transition: transitioning often consists of a change in style of dress, selection of a new name, and a request that people use the correct pronoun. This may or may not include medical care like hormone therapy, counselling, and/or surgery. This can also be called 'affirmation'. Not all trans* people choose to use the word 'transition' to describe their experiences.

Transphobia: prejudice against, and/or fear of trans* people, or anyone thought to be trans*. Transphobia can include violence, harassment and discrimination as well as the general idea that says everyone must fit into male or female. Transphobia can be built into the way things work, for example being forced to use either a male or female bathroom or having to continually tick male or female when filling in forms. Homophobia works in the same way but is aimed at anyone seen as outside heterosexuality.

Trans sexuality: the medical or psychiatric term for a person who transitions from one gender to the other. People can also use 'transsexual' to describe themselves. Some people think that trans sexuality is biological, this issue is constantly debated and often divides the trans* community rather than unites it.

Glossary & Terms by Jez and Ash Pike. For more info download the Gender Questioning [GQ] Booklet, at www.rainbownetwork.com.au





BUT HOW DO YOU GO PEE?

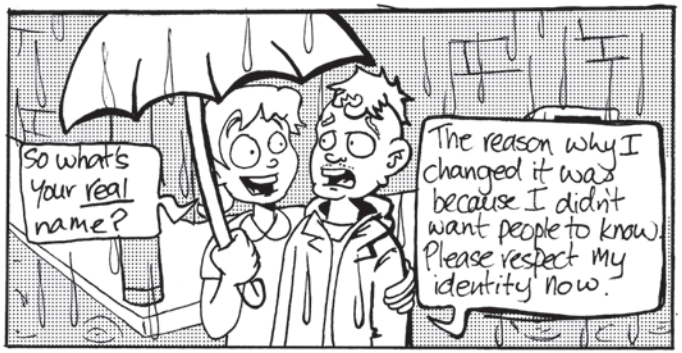
One of the most frustrating things I have experienced in recent years are the personal questions that are asked of me when people learn that I am a transguy. I understand that there is a level of innocent curiosity and genuine interest that comes without judgement or harm, but by asking inappropriate questions about things that could be easily self researched and self taught can sometimes be considered offensive. I disclosed once that I did not have a typical male cock and I was then asked "well how do you go pee?".

Depending on the context and scenario, certain questions might be totally okay to ask. For example, you might have been flirting all night with a dude and be wanting to take him home for some fun. The dude might then disclose to you that he is a transguy and in this scenario some appropriate and respectful questions might need to be asked. You might want to know what kind of junk he has because you have never been with a transguy before (although after reading this you'll certainly know a little more). A conversation may ensue about how the transguy likes to fuck and how you like to fuck. You'll both be in a position to respectfully figure out if the pleasure will be mutual. And of course it is OK to not be interested if you are seeking something else.

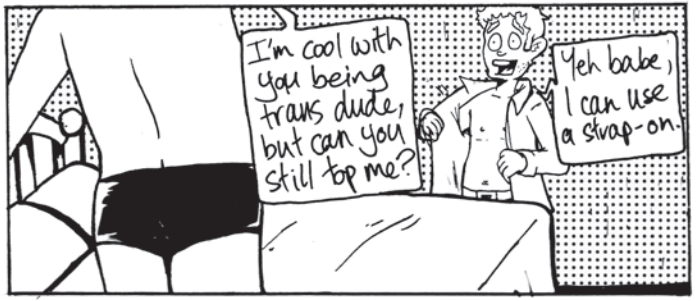
If the scenario is a sunny afternoon BBQ with friends and you meet a transguy and there has been no flirting or mutual sexual engagement, then it most likely won't be the right context to ask these types of questions and the transguy may feel really uncomfortable having personal questions directed at him.

This is why I thought it might be helpful to provide a bit of guidance around the kind of questions to avoid and the kind of questions, given the appropriate context, might be considered reasonable and respectful.

QUESTIONS WE'VE BEEN ASKED (That you might wanna think twice about asking)



QUESTIONS THAT ARE OK BY ME!



©-AP/10

"I'VE NEVER HAD SEX WITH A TRANS MAN." CORRECTION: YOU'VE NEVER KNOWINGLY HAD SEX WITH A TRANS MAN.

Never Say Never or...
"Try my Mouth, Please!"

by thechicagoL,
the oral cub

If you would have told me five years ago that I would have a Steamworks membership card in a slot in my wallet, I would have been in true deep disbelief.

I'm a 30 year old urban gay guy, sexually adventurous, moderately hairy and a chub4chub. Bear Saturday at the local bathhouse was just the next logical step in my evolution. A slutty step for sure—no shame in my game. Of course, navigating a clothing-optional space while trans presents its own raft of problems. But it's actually been fairly easy for me to navigate that. Easier than I thought it would be.

I don't view my transition as rebellious or revolutionary. But there is something potentially edgy about being a stealth trans man in the bowels of a heaving, roving orgy of cocks and ass and mouths. There's no promise the mouth on the other side of the glory hole belongs to a body deemed male at birth. But it's a distinction that is pretty irrelevant when you're swabbing my tonsils with your dick. My dick and holes are also irrelevant in a casual sex situation. You aren't going to see it or be forced to interact with it.

I placed a Craigslist ad a while back, as I do. A gay guy responded and wanted to talk on the phone. We chatted and flirted. He jerked himself off to my enthusiastic verbal commands. We both finished off at the same time, and after we collected our breaths, he asked me, "Are you really trans? Your voice is so deep."

So the collective cis gay male anxiety around trans men seems to be: our voices aren't deep! We are all tops! Or we are all bottoms! Our rapacious need for penetration will force innocent gay men to interact with a certain orifice!

But the really edgy thing is…

We are already in your spaces and websites and community networks. To think otherwise would be naive—and ask yourself, knowing we are already there, has our presence really changed the often vapidly looks-based, dick-centric gay male culture? No, not one bit.

So relax and enjoy this quality humjob, on the house.

“BEFORE WE LEAVE TOGETHER, I’VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING”

The Conversation:
Outing myself as trans

by Jak

Whenever I meet someone new and realise we might be mutually attracted to each other ‘the conversation’ starts looming over my head like a big dark storm cloud. Like a unsettled day when its obvious a storm is coming, the thought of the conversation creeps up on me closer and closer while the other guy is totally unaware of this heavy thing that’s about to fall on his head.

Over time I’ve refined ‘The Conversation’ down to a pretty much a script, but its kind of flexible like a ‘Choose your own adventure’. Subconsciously I make judgements and somehow find the right words to use. During ‘The Conversation’, I’m not really there. It’s just like a movie that plays out in front of me. I don’t think about it, and it happens. On some level it is difficult and I hate it, but I know it’s generally inevitable.

There’s not really a line in the sand about when I choose to start the conversation, but it’s almost like it’s not a choice anymore. I suppose it depends on the context – but I always get it over with before leaving a party or venue with someone or going into a private room. The words come out of my body while I watch his face like a drama on TV. “Before we leave together I’ve got to talk to you about something”. Usually the second line goes something like ‘it is ok if you’re not ok with what I’m about to tell you, don’t feel bad if you want to say no’.

I’ve never been met with a reaction that made me feel bad about myself or my body. If you treat people with sensitivity and respect they’ll likely treat you the same way back. Sometimes that means people say ‘No thanks’ but other times guys are totally accepting of me and my body.

I met a guy once at a sex venue who really didn’t ‘get it’, but we had sex and it was good. I’d told him that I had a cunt, and that I was born that way. He was sweet and clueless. I don’t know if he had ever even heard the word ‘trans’. I didn’t use it either. I basically said ‘this is what I’ve got’ and gave no other explanation. I didn’t use the word ‘trans’ or ‘female’ or give any clue that I didn’t just grow up like any other guy.

The best kind of hook ups though for me are the ones where I don’t have to think about being trans. Sometimes I suddenly realise I’m in bed with some cis boy I’ve never met before and he’s touching my body, and I never verbally ‘outed’ myself as trans. Sometimes hook ups are easy. Occasionally I completely forget that I’m ‘trans’, forget to feel self conscious of my body. Sometimes a guy won’t make any comments or assumptions about my body, and we fuck, and it’s good. Sometimes I want fucking to be that simple.

CONSENT IS ABOUT RESPECT, IT'S ABOUT REALISING YOU ARE ENTITLED ONLY TO YOUR OWN BODY.

Consent

by Jak

I've done lots of thinking about 'The Conversation' also as a barrier for talking about consent, and how although having to out myself sucks it's a good time to bring up consent. The fact that the conversation is usually inevitable means that there's always a time in a hook up to stop kissing / touching / whatever and talk about our own boundaries. Since I have 'transitioned' I have learnt a lot about what consent really means to me.

To me it means that whoever is involved mutually agreeing to recognise their own and each others desires and agree upon ways of communicating what is good and what isn't. For me consent is about respect, it's about realising you are entitled only to your own body.

So for me part of that extends to really taking the time and effort to continually check in with partners whether or not they are ok with what is happening, or what we perceive is about to happen. For me this idea of consent covers clearly communicating to partners what kind of body I have, and asking them to stop and honestly think about whether they are REALLY ok with it. Not just in a political or intellectual way.

I don't want to hook up with anyone who doesn't think I am hot, and that my body is hot.

I don't want to hook up with anyone who thinks I'm hot, but feels at all uncomfortable about my trans body.

As a trans guy I have felt vulnerable outing myself but I think its equally important to think about the potential vulnerability that the person you are outing yourself to may be feeling. For some cis guys this may be the first they've ever heard of a trans guy, and might be something they've never even considered. It's important to me to always be clear about my body and identity, and not let anyone use language or ideas around my body that I don't feel positive about. Just the same as a partner can withdraw consent, remember that you can too withdraw your consent whenever you want for whatever reason you want.

For me often I only feel comfortable if after a sexual experience I check in with how the partner(s) is feeling and letting them know that if they want to talk about it some time in the future I'm open to it.

I HEARD AND READ A LOT ABOUT SO-CALLED "BORDER WARS" BETWEEN BUTCH WOMEN/PEOPLE AND TRANS GUYS/PEOPLE.

Let's Get Miscellaneous: Negotiating Butch and Trans with Myself.

by Joey Macdonald

Before I began my physical transition I often insisted that I was, and would be, a femme boy. I loved the idea of passing as a boy but mixing it up by wearing skirts and fake eyelashes. At the moment I'm eight months on T and don't quite pass enough to risk being seen as a girl in a skirt, but I still look forward to that and I'm cultivating a butch little moustache as counterpoint. This butchness – the fact that my moustache (currently mere bumfluff – that's an appropriately homoerotic term) feels equal parts butch AND boy… this I did not anticipate but am learning to adore.

My body, before the extra testosterone, was a slender, traditionally attractive white-girl figure. Butch people were high on my erotic list of hotness, but I didn't identify as such myself. When I started identifying as trans (usually without the qualifier "man") I heard and read a lot about so-called "border wars" between butch women/people and trans guys/people. At the time, I saw myself as straddling the female-male divide, being ambiguously alluring. Now, I straddle both divides: boy and girl, butch and trans. I prefer male pronouns, and I would rather that the general public treat me as male instead of female. But I'm actively working alongside many others to create a world where those aren't the only two options. And in my private or intimate worlds, I love being a genderqueer butch person, or butch transboy. I feel, more than ever before, a strong sense of alignment with my embodiment and myself. Like I'm living out to the edges of my skin.

Feminine butch boy.

Masculine transqueer.

Me.

I haven't experienced border wars. I am close to people who are butch, femme, boy, girl, trans, genderqueer, or any combination of the above. In terms of how I would like other people to interact (read: fuck, flirt or miscellaneous) with me, I'd say, just follow my lead. Sometimes I have a cock, sometimes I have a cunt, and sometimes I have heavy breathing instead of any words at all.

FAGGY BOYS BOTTOMING FOR DOMINANT FEMMES OF ANY SEX OR GENDER IS QUEER AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL.

I Love a Fag Who Loves a Femme

by Bastian Fox Phelan

I am in Portland, Oregon with queer babes on a late-night snack adventure at the food carts. We are debating what we want to eat: poutine smothered in gravy, crepes with fruit and cream, or fried dessert pies that ooze choc-peanut butter filling. My friend suggests we share a serving of poutine and asks me if I would like to feed it to her. She is a tall, beautiful and intimidating femme returning from the Femme Conference in Oakland.

I am a small, faggy trans boy from Australia who doesn't mind being pushed around in a friendly way. I agree to this, with pleasure. As I feed her spoonfuls of saucy hot chips and reciprocate intense eye contact, I remember something she said: 'I love a fag who loves a femme.' These words echo in my head months later, becoming a diving board that I jump from into a whirlpool of questions about what it means to be a fag and the crossroads of fag/femme identities. I'd like to explore how these ideas developed through my personal history, although I don't know nearly as much as I'd like to and definitely need to be pushed around more by fierce femmes.

There is not much difference between a fag and a femme. Some people are both. A beast I met in Seattle self-describes as 'a fag with a femme rising.' Femmes and fags can be trans, cis, intersex, genderqueer, cross dressers, sex &/or gender diverse, genderless. Femmes and fags can be tops, bottoms, switches, sadomasochists, beasts, monsters, freaks. There are femmes who are not female and fags who are not male. Faggy boys bottoming for dominant femmes of any sex or gender is queer as a three dollar bill, as they say in the States. Fags and femmes both defy expectations and resist definition.

Fag is a word I often hear in trans masculine communities. Many trans people I know identify as fags in a loose way: they don't strictly fuck male-identifying people and may not be male-identifying themselves. When you're gender weird you transcend boundaries of sexual identities. But a lot of cis gender queers have a similarly anarchic disregard for the traditional understanding of identities like fag, dyke, butch, and femme. My Swedish housemate tells me that her friends in Sweden refer to polyamory as 'relationships anarchy' – queerness, as I see it, is sex/gender/sexuality anarchy.

As a teenager I was straight, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, until I gave up trying to categorise myself. I secretly yearned to be a boy so I could dress up as a girl and the idea of boys falling in love made my heart flutter. I couldn't see myself in that picture of happiness so I put it aside. I had relationships and sex with cis men as a female-bodied person that dressed femme —until things shifted beneath me.

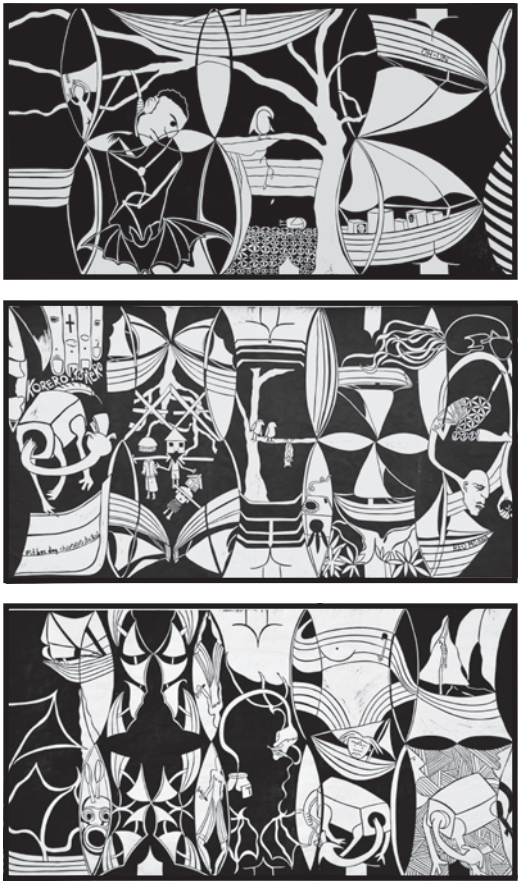
Insert period of intense gender questioning and angst.

Understanding my sexuality was a difficult task: sexuality is commonly referred to as same sex attraction, opposite sex attraction or attraction to both same and opposite sex.

When you are unsure how you feel about your sex and/or gender and how they match up, finding a sexuality that fits is like trying to put together an outfit, but every time you look down, your shoes have changed, or the plain t-shirt you were trying to pull over your head turned into a patterned t-shirt when you looked in the mirror, and now it clashes with your animal-print jeans or your floral skirt. You can't wear those two things together… Or can you? Maybe those rules are bullshit. Someone will think you look good.

Years after I first dreamed of fag love I discovered the term 'transfag.' I was overjoyed by the idea that there were people in the world like me, assigned female at birth, who could grow up to be boys, and these boys could be fabulous faggots that got fucked by other faggots and that everyone could have a gay old time. These trans fags could fuck cis fags and other trans fags and re-write the rules of faggotry and what it means to fuck like a fag. I started to look differently at the crushes the girl version of myself had on cake boys and gave legitimacy to my feelings towards queer men.

The more conversations I had, the more I came to realise that fags come in many forms, and some of them are femme, transfeminine and female. I myself have made a series of transformations in which femme and fag were never far apart: from female to femme to transmasculine to femme trans fag. But when female-identifying femmes first started hitting on me I freaked out. Would this new sense of self dissolve if I fucked someone who wasn't male? Would I become



Pacific Transformer
by Jules Sharman

Lino print on Mulberry paper 1 x 1.8m, 2009.

"I am proposing FTM trans identity can be achieved through iconographic tattooing, creating a Pasifika means of gender transitioning. I am creating images for my eventual trans-body tattoo. These prints on mulberry paper are a homage to Tapa cloth, given on important occasions and times of transition throughout Pasifika."

what I secretly feared being: a lesbian? Years of homophobic bullying for being a masculine female take their toll, and I was aware of ugly internalised dyke-phobia that lurked in my back brain.

But sexuality is about more than the genitals and identity of the person you're fucking. When my aunt asked how my relationships with trans guys are different from two women having sex I replied, It just is. And then again, it isn't. In the same way that two cis men fucking isn't different from two trans men fucking, which isn't different from two trans women fucking. It's all fucking, and we queers are quite adept at making use of various body parts, toys, techniques and scenes that make us really hot.

In the essay 'Gay Men, Queer Men, and Me,' S. Bear Bergman tells us that when ze propositions gay men, ze tells them that 'while I'm behind them and cramming their asses, they won't be able to tell I wasn't born a man and that if they can they're unlikely to care.' When I'm the one whose ass is being crammed, I'm unlikely to care. And given the complexities of queer sexuality, I'm likely to be pleasantly surprised by the ass-cramming skills of all kinds of people, just as I have pleasantly surprised boys who told me 'you sure know how to fuck a guy in the ass' long before I ever told them I was, in fact, a guy.

For me and a lot of queer transmasculine people, much of the angst about who you fuck as a faggot is centred around how people read you. If the person you're with is read as a woman and you are read as a woman, you're dykes. If you're read as a man and your partner is read as a woman, you're straight. This makes you want to scream into the street, "We are raging homosexuals who love rimming and anal and Tom of Finland and ejaculate and prostates and cruising and fashion!" But there are plenty of dykes and straight people who love these things as well, so I wonder again, what's the difference?

If the difference is passing as a fag by the standards of 'real' fags (cis fags) then I think we might be reproducing binaries that we do not wish to be subjected to. The best thing for trans folk, in my opinion, is not to fuck someone who appears to be a person that would validate your identity if you walked down the street together, but to fuck someone who isn't cissexist. Nobody should ever tell you that you're not real.

Cis women, queer cis men and men who are read as queer, and intersex, sex &/or gender diverse people experience different shades of the same oppression – being 'Other' in sexist, misogynist societies. This is particularly true of anyone who appears to be female or feminine, who wears female clothing, who expresses feminine behaviors, who chooses traditionally female roles, who disrupts social expectations of femininity. And here's where femme and fag come back into play. Femmes and fags have both been accused of 'doing it wrong.' But baby, it can be so right.

I'm a fag because I say so and not because of who I fuck or how I fuck. I want to have my cake and feed it too – feed it to a femme and be fed by whoever's doing the feeding. I once said that I am attracted to masculinity, but perhaps what I meant was, I am attracted to fagulinity. Fags, faggots, fagettes, I don't care. Just put it in.

Resources & Links

Check out these links and you'll find a whole lot more information, including books and films and amazing people.

Sexual Health Resource
www.queertransmen.org

Trans male culture magazine
www.originalplumbing.com

Porn company
www.trannywoodpictures.com

Safe Sex resource
www.apiwellness.org/tm4m

DIRTY QUEER MAGAZINE
www.dirtyqueermag.com

Products & Services

Pay It Forward Binder Program
binderprogram.ftmaustralia.org

Packys
www.mangoproducts.net

Chest binders
www.underworks.com
www.t-kingdom.com

Groups & Organisations

The ALSO Foundation
www.also.org.au

Trans Melbourne Gender Project
www.genderproject.net.au

Zoe Belle Gender Centre
www.gendercentre.com

Y Gender
www.ygender.com

FTM Australia
www.ftmaustralia.org

Melbourne GenderQueer
www.melbournegenderqueer.org

Southern Health Gender Dysphoria Clinic
03 9556 5216

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