

# Why is making a safe space important?

- Safe spaces allow people to feel respected and supported
- Allows people to speak their mind/tell their stories freely without fear of judgment.
- It is important to create safe spaces for ourselves as they are often hard to find outside of the spaces we self-create
- Creating a safe space allows this club to have better and more open communication

# What have safe spaces looked like when created by queer people in history?

## Ballroom culture and houses

- Balls were chances for all genders to compete in categories for looks, attitudes, dance, and later lip synching
- The first ball was in 1867 but as it grew throughout the ages it held some racism so in the 1960's Crystal LaBeija called the judges out on it and started creating a subsection of Black queer ballroom culture
- In ballroom culture there were often house mothers and fathers who took in their children who had hard experiences growing up queer and had to escape. These houses would compete for categories but the prize was the experience and trophies

## Lesbian Bars

- In the 1920's lesbian bars started to become more popular because it was WWI and the men were gone fighting and became even more apparent after WWII. Lesbian bars were mostly left alone during Prohibition (the ban of alcohol) These bars took place in Harlem.
- Black queer women could not go out in fear of seeing someone they knew and held apartment parties where they could let loose

# What have the norms looked like in those spaces?

## Ball culture

- They have been accepting of whatever house members have run away from
- Provide a family like structure so that the children can be supported in reaching their goals
- Provided freedom to explore and express new ideas/attitudes/gender ambiguity

## Lesbian Bars

- Provided spaces for those who identified as lesbian to let go and have fun
- Provided a space to get to know who was also a part of the community
- During the wars provided spaces for the women to connect with others whose husbands had gone away to war

# Ball Culture and Lesbian Bars



Rolling Stones: Striking a 'Pose' a Brief history on Ball culture



Lesbian Bar in LA: Remembering LA's Earliest Lesbian Bars-WEHoville



# Intersectionality - Brief Definition

Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, gender, sexuality, etc. as they apply to a given individual or group. Intersectionality identifies how one's different identities relate to how they experience systems of discrimination, what privileges they have, what struggles they have, and other ways they experience the world that are unique to them.

We will get more into intersectionality later on, and why it's important to understand intersectionality as it relates to being in the LGBTQ+ community.

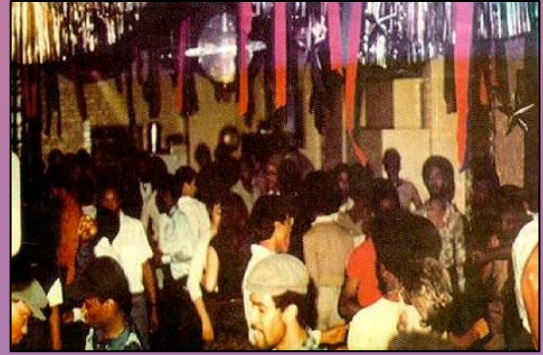
(History, acceptance, discrimination, etc. within the community)



# House Music

**History:** House music has been around since the 1970's but became more popular in the 80's and 90's. Frankie Knuckles and Larry Levan were the first ones to really bring remixes into more mainstream places but it had been slowly cultivating in Black queer spaces. Remixes like 1979's "Rock With You" by Michael Jackson became popular. As of now it has become mostly white centered.

**Artist:** Honey Dijon is a DJ and producer from Chicago. Her career started in the early days of underground house and disco, to international acclaim. In her teens, Honey came of age in the clubs that birthed house music. She says that now, the electro music industry has really morphed to be white, heterosexual, cisgender men. Honey tries to incorporate the music that came from queer, black culture in her own. Honey is also a fashion model!



# Peppermint

Peppermint is a trans drag artist based in NYC. She went on RuPaul's Drag Race Season 9 and scored 2nd place! Peppermint is an extremely talented performer (has been on Broadway!), creates awesome music, and creates music on top of that. She has written music and her new album "A Girl Like Me" is set to come out soon.

She explains the album as "... my fantasy album of love songs sung by a trans woman in a way that speaks directly to trans women. It allows space for people to hear what it's like to be a trans woman and what we go through and to see maybe we're more alike than one may assume."



# Blend by Peppermint and Cazwell



Pause at 15 seconds play again at 48 seconds and pause at 3:12

1. What do you think the church setting represented?
2. What message was Peppermint trying to spread in her video?
3. How is Peppermint's intersectional identity represented in this video?



# Shea Diamond

The following information is from a Ted Talk Shea did!

Shea Diamond is a singer/songwriter who was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and grew up in both Memphis and Michigan. She had a passion for singing since she was young, yet she feared her voice, which she described as effeminate, and this made her feel like an outcast.

Shea explains, she was born into a gender role that did not feel like herself and that she did not accept. At 14, Shea ran away from home and was in the foster care system before becoming emancipated at 17.

Later as she grew desperate to gather the financial means to transition into her true gender, she committed a crime and was sentenced to 10 years in a men's prison. There she found a community of transgender women where she found her voice. She says, "I was locked up but my mind was free!"

She then wrote the song, "I am Her" which she says is a statement to the world that told her she shouldn't exist, and is an anthem for all those who felt shunned for simply being who they were

After her release, Shea Diamond moved to New York City and recorded her hit song!

# More Music!

“I Am Her” by Shea Diamond

(This is the song Shea wrote when she was in prison, and was the first song she released when she got out.)



“Free Woman” by Lady Gaga remixed by Honey Dijon  
(Honey Dijon is the black, transgender woman, producer, and DJ previously talked about. Gaga also said this song was written about transgender women).



# American Pie by Shea Diamond



“American Pie” by Shea Diamond, released in 2018, is a song that speaks on the issue of the American dream. She says, “Just want my piece of the American pie. Got your slice, where is mine,” which relates to how the system picks and chooses who is apart of the dream, how many people are left out of it, and how she hopes to be recognised and accepted in America.

About the song, Shea says, “I want things to change since we've been stuck thinking in an antique mindset and it's time for something new.”

# American Pie - Lyric Analysis

Shea says in response to the lyric “all those looks that get so dirty lets me know that they’re still learning,” “if it takes another 10 years for me to keep getting those dirty looks, and being this public person who isn’t popular, and delivering this message of change and hope for people who are more marginalized — then I’ll continue to be the bad guy.”

She says that she has to continue going against the grain and continue putting herself out there as an artist. At the same time, she does not want to be tokenized by the industry. She says, “we believe that once we get one, we’ve done our job. ‘Yay, we’ve done it. Look at Shea, she’s a trans artist. We’re not transphobic!’ Just like people who say ‘Oh, I’ve got that one black friend’ to prove you’re not racist. It’s not coming from a place of authenticity.”

Shea explains the lyric “who’s gonna say a want is not a need” as she says, “we look at a trans person and we don’t know their experience. What it took for them to be where they are, what it takes for them to get up each day and get out of the house knowing they could be assaulted or killed.”

She goes on to state that people overstep their boundaries when they dictate what others want, what they should be doing or should be. They may say “you don’t really need that” but it’s not their experience.

*“You may laugh but it’s not funny*

*That’s the thing that keeps me coming*

*Who’s gonna say a want is not a need*

*All those looks that get so dirty*

*Lets me know that they’re still learning*

*Who’s gonna say a want is not a need”*



# Mila Jam

Mila Jam describes herself as an “NYC pop recording activist and Transgender Superstar.” She has performed on Broadway in the musical Rent and has performed alongside celebrities like Laverne Cox and Natasha Bedingfield. She first developed her drag persona as Britney Houston but came out later as trans.

Mila Jam’s music is danceable and has catchy tunes but she has talked about how even producing her music, it is a political piece. It is a political piece for her to fight for her music to reach her listeners in a cis white industry.



# From Mila Jam's Masquerade video



# Closing

All these artists have used their art to spread these powerful messages. As artists it is our responsibility to do the same. We must stand up for our fellow artists and start investing more into art created by people from minority groups that have been neglected for too long. After this club please give these people a listen!! You will not be let down!



**Shea Diamond**



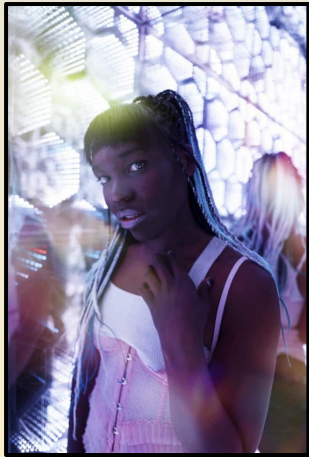
**Mila Jam**



**Peppermint**

# Even More Music!

Ah Mer Ah Su is an Oakland-based songwriter who creates dreamy sounding indie electronic pop music. With the release of her self-titled debut album, *Star*, Ah Mer Ah Su is hitting her stride and singling in on the kind of beautiful, flowingly catchy music she's always wanted to make.



KC Ortiz is a Chicago-based, Alabama-raised rapper who lets her church roots shine through in her gritty yet glamorous hip-hop. With a mix of twangy southern flow and Chicago toughness, her music is nothing if not unpredictable.



<https://soundcloud.com/staramerasu/2-on>

<https://soundcloud.com/kayceetee/friends-ab-out-cha>



# OVERVIEW OF HALLOWEEN IN THE QUEER COMMUNITY

Originally Halloween was linked to the ancient Celtic festival Samhain, meaning “summer’s end.” Today it is known by many as the “Gay High Holiday.”

At a time when LGBTQ+ people were arrested for going out in public for “wearing items of clothing of the opposite gender,” Halloween became an outlet for people to experiment with their expression through different costumes.

At first people were still getting arrested during Halloween but within 2 years, crossdressing had become so prevalent that the Police declared they would no longer stop or arrest people during the holiday from therein. This allowed many LGBTQ+ people a night of being able to freely express themselves creatively without societal constraints and a lessened concern of arrest.

By the 1980s, LGBTQ+ people were also holding their own Halloween street parties.

Today it is more than just a masked festival as it was a century before. It is celebrated with pride and exhilaration as a day for freedom of expression of all forms by all people of all backgrounds without judgment.

# WHAT IS THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW?

- RELEASED IN 1975 IT WAS A MOVIE THAT EXPLORED SEXUALITY AND CHALLENGED THE NORMS OF HORROR MOVIES. NOTE: IT DOES USE SOME OUTDATED LANGUAGE LIKE THE WORD TRANSVESTITE
- AT FIRST IT WAS A HUGE FAILURE IN THE THEATRES BUT THEN IT BEGAN TO SHOW AT VARIOUS THEATRES AT WHAT WAS CALLED “MIDNIGHT SHOWINGS” WHERE PEOPLE ALSO COULD DRESS UP AS THE CHARACTERS.
- MANY PEOPLE BECAME FANS AND IT HELPED THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY CELEBRATE THE SEXUAL AND EMOTIONAL RESISTANCE THEY COULD PRACTICE AS IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HOMOSEXUALITY WAS STILL CONSIDERED A MENTAL ILLNESS
- THE MOVIE IS STILL POPULAR TODAY



# The Fits Tho



Jannike Somma



Dallas Coulter



Diego Montoya



# LGBTQ+ Flags Project

We are doing a mini project today about flags in the LGBTQ+ community. On a google document we have a list of identities including genders and sexual orientations to choose from.

Make a small presentation on the flag for one identity and include the following:

- The name and brief definition of the identity
- A picture of the flag and what the visual aspects on the flag (colors, symbols, etc.) represent
- One thing about the history of the flag (for example: who made it, when, why, different variations of it)
- We will compile it into a slideshow - either you or we can present on them today or next week!
- Feel free to choose an identity that wasn't listed or to add more interesting information you find about the flag and/or identity.



# Brief History of the Rainbow Flag



# The Intersex pride flag

Intersex is a term used to describe someone who is born with reproductive or sex characteristics that do not fit binary ideas of “male” and “female” bodies. This can be someone with chromosomes other than XX and XY, genital or internal sex organs that fall outside the male/female categories, or other situations that make someone intersex.



Fun fact: the flag was created in 2013 by Morgan Carpenter in Australia.

# Rainbow Pride Flag

Also called the Gay Pride Flag, this flag is associated with gay pride and is also used to represent the entirety of the LGBTQ+ community! Gay is a sexuality referring to romantic or sexual attraction towards people of the same gender.

The colors represent:

- Red: Life
- Orange: Healing
- Yellow: Sunlight
- Green: Nature
- Blue: Magic/Art
- Purple: Serenity/Harmony



This flag used to have 8 colors including pink and indigo. There is a variation of this flag that highlights POC in the LGBTQ+ community.



# Polygender Pride Flag!

Polygender is a gender identity that means having many or multiple genders. “Poly” means “many.” People who are polygender have multiple genders either simultaneously or varying between them. These genders can be any genders. Polygender people may also identify with multigender, genderfluidity, or with being non-binary, so this flag is considered to be in the category of non-binary flags.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Flag Colors & What they represent:

- Black: represents people who feel partially agender/the absence of gender
- Grey: represents people whose gender(s) fluctuate
- Pink: represents femininity
- Yellow: represents genders outside of the binary
- Blue: represents masculinity



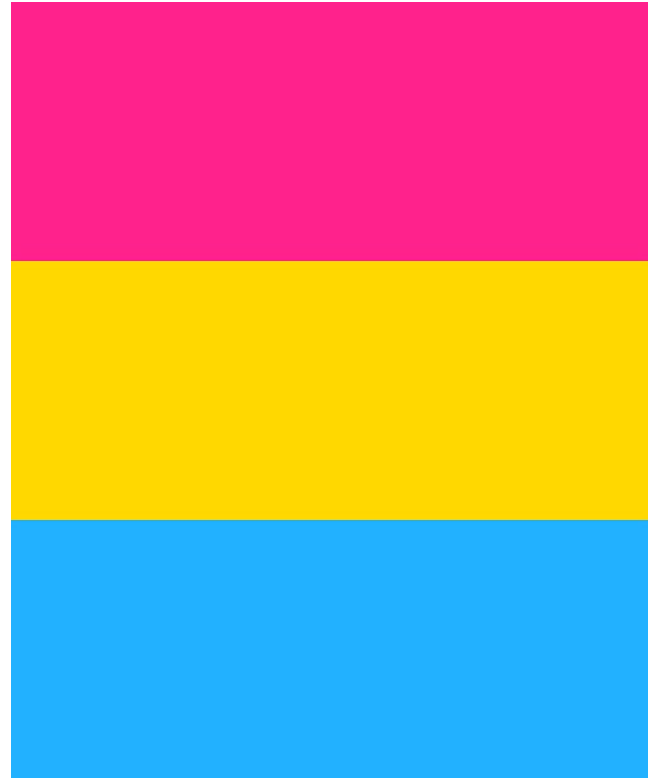
Here are two variations of the flag!  
All these flags are made by people in the polygender community and are posted on different sites like DeviantArt and Tumblr





PANSEXUAL

THE PANSEXUAL FLAG IS SIMILAR TO THE  
BISEXUAL FLAG, THE PINK AND BLUE  
STRIPE REPRESENT ATTRACTION TO  
MEN AND WOMEN, BUT THE PANSEXUAL  
FLAG'S YELLOW STRIPE REPRESENTS  
ATTRACTION TO NONBINARY AND  
GENDER-NONCONFORMING PEOPLE,  
NONBINARY REFERS TO INDIVIDUALS  
WHOSE GENDER IS NOT MALE OR FEMALE



I LIKE MY MEN HOW  
I LIKE MY WOMEN  
THAT'S IT  
THAT'S THE  
WHOLE JOKE  
I'M A BISEXUAL

Biromantic



BISEXUAL AND BIPOLAR



This is what the flag looks like

# What does Biromantic mean?

Biromantic means when you feel romantic attraction to 2 genders, that's why it's called "bi", since bi means two. But most people think biromantic only means attraction to only males and females, this isn't exactly true though. Biromantic people like people from the same gender as theirs, and like a different gender too.



## What does the flag mean?

The pink stripe in the flag means attraction to the same gender, the blue part means attraction to another gender, the purple stripe means attraction to the two genders.

## Fun fact

The Bi flag was made in 1998 by Michael Page.