## Early Life

\* What year and where were you born? Add your birthday if you want.

**Born in Providence RI, May 22, 1961. Identify as early Gen X. Gemini**

\* Where did you grow up?

**Providence, RI, but mostly out in the rural suburbs of Providence.**

\* Brothers and sisters

**Three brothers. Which explains a lot about my gender. Second of four.**

\* Were you close to a larger family?

**We were close to my mother’s Irish family. My father was Italian. I was close to my Italian grandmother.**

\* What was high school like for queers?

**I went to a Catholic girl’s academy. I was a loner.**

\* Occupations

**Social work, community organizing and planning, Some legal practice. Social research. Teaching at the university level.**

\*\* What was your first job?

**Working at a pizza parlor.**

\*\* What careers have you had?

**All in the realm of social science, both practical and academic.**

## Community

\* When did you come out? Why? How?

**I knew I was transgendered from the age of 6. I knew I wasn’t a boy, but I wasn’t a girl either. I have been in this in-between state my entire life. I was a transgender child who grew up to be a transgender adult.**

\*\* What was that like?

**There was no language for it, no role models of transgender people. I had to figure everything out on my own, with no help and little information.**

\*\* Who did you hang around with when you were coming out?

**I was in a lesbian punk rock band for a while. I played guitar. We never played anywhere, but we had fun.**

\*\* What were your family relations like then? Now?

**I was close to my two younger brothers. No one understood that I was transgender. Now: I’m close to my youngest brother, who is bi-sexual.**

\* Who were your gay and lesbian role models? Were there any gay and lesbian role models for you to look up to?

**I tried for years to be part of the lesbian community, but on the whole, the lesbian community did not accept me. It wasn’t until the transgender community coalesced in the 90s that I found some form of queer community. I get along best with transgender women and some gay men.**

\* When were you first active in the community in Halifax?

**I became active in the queer community in Halifax as soon as I moved there in 2013. Prior to that I had been an activist in the queer community in Fredericton, NB. I founded Queer Theory Collective, which ran Travesty Cafe, a queer arts organization. We put on a series of events for two years focused on queer history and culture. We put on a weekly coffeehouse, performance showcase, and alcohol-free PRIDE event**s.

\*\* What was Halifax like then?

**Halifax had been a queer paradise. I went to the drag shows at Menz/Mollyz every week**.

\*\* what was going on with gay liberation elsewhere? Do you feel that what was happening in other centres was having an impact here? \*\* also NS society and politics and life in general.

**Then in 2016, everything went dark. The queer scene was torn apart by internal politics; it turned into a war zone. Then COVID hit in 2020 and destroyed the queer scene completely. But I had already left Halifax in 2017.**

\* Were you ever gaybashed?

**All the time. Everywhere I go,**

\* What organizations were you involved with?

**I founded and ran Queer Theory Collective, edited the FQ–Fredericton Queery blog, ran Travesty Cafe, the weekly coffehouse/performance showcase, advocated for transgender human rights and medical treatment. In Halifax, I was mainly involved with the transgender community and completed my medical transition.**

\*\* For each one: what was it like being involved with that?

**It was hard work and a blast.**

\* What does Halifax mean to you? Is Halifax an accepting community, both from other gays and lesbians and from people in the wider community?

**I don’t know what it’s like now, but in its heyday, it was a wonderful place for queers, the best queer life I have ever experienced.**

\* Did you come from away (other parts of Canada, NS)? Was the social environment of Halifax different from where you came from, if so how was it different?

**I came from the US, mostly Northeast (Boston and Northampton MA; NYC), which on the whole is the most accepting environment for queers in the US.**

\* For things you were involved with:

\*\* How did you get involved? When?

**Queer Theory Collective, Fredericton NB, 2010 to 2012; Halifax, 2013 to 2017.**

\*\* What were your roles?

**Fredericton NB: lead organizer. Halifax: happy participant.**

\*\* What stories do you have about the organization?

**Read the FQ blog (Wordpress); it’s still archived on the internet.**

\*\* When and how did you stop working with it?

**Queer Theory Collective ended when I left Fredericton in 2013. Then I left Halifax and went back to Massachusetts in 2017. I live in Worcester, MA now. In 2022, the Central Mass Queer Coalition organized a post-COVID PRIDE, and I put on Bio-Tek, a queer-core dance party.**

\* Volunteer work

**Lifelong activist. Too numerous to mention.**

## Stories

\* What are the stories you often tell someone when you first meet them? Naughty stories are awesome!

**I’ve done some Drag shows. In Northampton, MA, I performed as Bono-bo, a spoof of Bono from U2; in Halifax I performed as Jello Viagra, and covered songs by Morrissey.**

\* Outdoor sex, unexpected hookups, unexpected people, the most memorable sex.

\* What are the stories your friends have asked you to retell?