

Queering the Narrative

Worksheet Four (a)



Taking Influence from LGBTQIA+ Musicians and Poets

This worksheet is designed to be used alongside the 'Queering the Narrative' videos, found here: <https://ytas.org.uk/resources/queering-the-narrative/>

The worksheet refers to video number four and includes all links and references mentioned by Drew in the video.

Get Listening

Sometimes the peripheral elements in the workshop space can be vital to help cultivate inclusion. For example, using LGBTQIA+ musicians who are singing about finding love in non-heteronormative contexts. By increasing the diversity of the information that's being processed in the space you can support young people to feel welcomed and included, however they present.

Here's a non-exhaustive list of contemporary musicians whose work could accompany your workshops...

Sam Smith

SOPHIE

Chapelle Roan

Chris [Christine and the queens]

Lil Nas X

Janelle Monae

Troye Sivan

Girl in Red

MNEK

Boygenius

Rina Sawayama

King Princess

Years And Years [Olly Alexander]

Hayley Kiyoko

Tegan And Sara

And never doubt the classics – artists like...

Annie Lennox

Freddie Mercury

George Michael

Elton John

...whose music almost becomes automatic because of their popularity. If a little context to the subversive nature of their presentation is provided it can also give positive gender-non-conforming / queer examples in the workshop space.

Here's a link to a 30-track playlist featuring all these musicians (and more):

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5fLL46C5r2dJ6hJW0zcsPg?si=IYwV50U7Tay-Qye1ajtHWQ&pi=3yIJH2hIS9ms6>

Work with Words

Poetry can be an incredible tool to create performance text, and is a great way to look at autobiography, (sometimes) without the need to really dig deep to find the content.

Take a look at artists like...

Alok Vaid-Menon
<https://www.alokvmenon.com/>

Joelle Taylor <http://www.joelletaylor.co.uk/>

Andrea Gibson <https://andreagibson.org/>

Kae Tempest
<https://www.kaetempest.co.uk/>

And younger queer Scottish poets like...

Leyla Josephine <https://www.leylajosephine.co.uk/>

RJ Hunter <https://x.com/rosiejohunter>

Michael Mullen https://www.instagram.com/michael_poet__mullen/

Poetry can effortlessly be political, it's an under five-minute burst of emotion that carves a point around a political irk. Two video poems that Drew has used in the workshop space are...

- *Holly McNish's Embarrassed*
Although not overtly about a queer issue (the topic of breastfeeding), it's so confident in its depiction of the injustices women face in a sexist society
<https://youtu.be/-2z-Cd3luqA>
- *Sean Lionadh's Time for Love*
A gentle, effective meditation on public safety for queer people
<https://youtu.be/anD9ZrMJT8k>

Both of these pieces could be brilliant starting points for political discussions and looking at how extra conventions can be used to tell stories. The physicality and the movement in Sean's piece is just as important as the language, and the visual storytelling and use of lip-sync in Holly's poem elevates her words.

For further influence... have a look to Drew's recent commissioned poem *Gather* for Scottish Mental Health Festival... <https://www.mhfestival.com/explore/gather/drew-taylor-wilson-gather-4/>

More Activities

To finish, utilise the separate Poetry Writing Worksheet to create autobiographically inspired poetic texts with your participants. Try the prompts, adapt the prompts, and feel free to use them however befits your practice. The key is to create small structures to help the blank page not be so scary, and the results will always be surprising.