

rotterdam



by **Jon Brittain**

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EDUCATION PACK



The Play

Rotterdam is a play that explores many aspects of the LGBT community and therefore is representing it and needs to do so correctly. The play includes the struggles of being transgender and the process of transitioning, which is presented through the character Adrien.

Along with the struggles of exploring your sexuality; shown in the character Alice who is finding it hard to come out to her parents.



LGBT

What does LGBT stand for?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

TQQIAAP are letters which have also been represented now standing for: Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Ally, Pansexual.

CIS

The term cisgender and cissexual include cis male for “male assigned male at birth”, cis female for “female assigned female at birth”. When a person is cisgender, they identify as the gender that matches the sex that they were assigned at birth.

A transgender woman is a person who was assigned male at birth but who identifies as a female. A cisgender woman is a person who was assigned female at birth and identifies as female.

A person is non-binary if they identify as neither male or female - no matter what sex they were assigned at birth

Cisgender Vs. Straight?

Gender identity and sexual orientation are also not the same things. A cisgender person can be heterosexual or homosexual, bisexual or asexual. So can a transgender person.

Pronouns/ Non-Binary Pronouns

What is a pronoun?

Pronouns refer specifically to people who are being talked about (he, she, him, his, her).

What are Non-Binary Pronouns?

Non-Binary Pronouns are pronouns that do not associate a gender with the person being discussed.

Why do we need Non-Binary Pronouns?

Some languages, such as English, have no truly non-binary third person pronoun available or commonly used, thus non-binary pronouns are created in the interest of greater gender equity. Gender neutral pronouns can be a preferred option for some within the transgender and genderqueer communities.

	Subject	Object	Pronoun	Pronunciation
Gender Binary	she	her	hers	as it looks
	he	him	his	as it looks
Gender Neutral	they*	them*	theirs*	as it looks
	ze	hir	hirs	zhee, here, heres
	ze	zir	zirs	zhee, zhere, zheres
	xe	xem	xyr	zhee, zhem, zheres

**used as singular*

How to make life easier for the LGBT community?

Learn the phrase, “guys, gals, and non-binary pals.”

Use non-gendered terms for professions such as “firefighter” instead of “fireman” or “firewoman.” (The answer to your question about “postman”: use “mail carrier.”)

Push for de-gendered dress codes, even if gendered dressed codes don’t bother you personally.

Ask your school and/or company to get trained on transgender and non-binary cultural competency.

Gender neutral toilets are a great idea at making everyone feel accepted.

Understand that non-binary people who never have surgery or take hormones are, still non-binary.

Don’t make assumptions. Not just about non-binary people. But about EVERYTHING related to gender.

LGBT community in the arts

LGBTI people have made extraordinary contributions to culture, knowledge and discovery through the ages and around the world.

Even with the community thriving within the arts it doesn't mean that struggles including discrimination aren't taking place.

One in five (19 per cent) lesbian, gay and bi employees have experienced verbal bullying from colleagues, customers or service users because of their sexual orientation in the last five years.

Rotterdam is a play which helps to educate people on a topic which is rarely discussed, or if represented normally done so without proper knowledge/understanding.



What is Transgender and what does transitioning mean?

Transgender is an umbrella term that describes people whose gender identity or expression does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. For example, a transgender person may identify as a woman despite having been born a “male”.

Transitioning is the process of changing your gender presentation and/or sex characteristics to accord with your internal sense of gender identity – the idea of what it means to be a man or a woman. This can include using surgeries or hormones.

Transitioning?

This is one of the main subject matters that is brought up in the play Rotterdam. For audience members who don't have friends or family members that are trans might not understand certain conversations that come up in the play e.g. binders. So what happens when you transition?

Social transitioning may include:

Coming out to your friends and family as transgender

Asking people to use pronouns (she/her, he/him, they/them) that match your gender identity

For trans men, or FTM, medical transition may include any of the following:

Hormone therapy: this changes certain characteristics such as a deeper voice, facial hair growth, muscle growth, redistribution of body fat away from hips and breasts, not getting a period, etc.

Male chest reconstruction, or “top surgery”. The removal of breasts and breast tissue.

Hysterectomy this includes the removal of internal female reproductive organs such as the ovaries and uterus.

Phalloplasty this is normally the second surgery after the hysterectomy. This surgery enables you to get construction of a penis using skin from other parts of your body.

Metoidioplasty this is an alternative surgical procedure to the ones above. It causes your clitoris to work more like a penis, along with hormone treatment to make your clitoris grow larger.

For trans women, or MTF, medical transition may include any of the following:

Hormone therapy by doing this it creates feminine characteristics, for example less body hair, breasts, redistribution of body fat toward hips and breasts, etc.

Breast augmentation (implants)

Orchiectomy (removal of testes)

Laser hair removal by doing this it removes hair from your face or other parts of your body.

Tracheal shave by doing this it making your Adam's apple smaller.

Facial feminization surgery it creates smaller, more feminine facial features.

Penile inversion vaginoplasty it is the creation of a vagina by inverting penile skin.

**Regardless of whether a trans
transition and how they choose
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The play is honest it doesn't portray being transgender or gay as easy in the modern world. Society still has a way to go, Rotterdam really captures that through the characters struggles. For example, Alice feels the need to take a job in another country so she doesn't have to be confronted with coming out to her parents.

The play also demonstrates how people who are transgender don't only have to figure out themselves, but also have to deal with the pressure of people around them. Such as transitioning can lead to losing people you love, as seen with Adrien and Alice.

Rehearsal Shots



For further information and helplines:

Links for people who are Transgender:

The Beaumont Society – offers a 24/7 information line, who can point you in the direction of the best resources for you. Their number is 01582 412220.

Mermaids – is a support group for trans people aged 19 and under. Their information line is open Monday to Saturday from 3pm til 7pm and their number is 0344 334 0550.

LGBT Youth Scotland – help young people in scotland offer forums, a text service and a live chat service struggling with trans issues. They also have a great leaflet about coming out as trans.

Links for LGBT community:

Switchboard 0300 330 0630 (Open 10:00-22:00 every day),
Message us, Email us chirs@switchboard.lgbt

Samaritans helpline 116 123 (open 24 hours), message online or text The Queer Youth Network – online forums discussing everything LGBT related.

The Mix – Our online community where you can chat anonymously to other young people about how you're feeling on our message boards.

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The Play

 HARTSHORN-HOOK
PRODUCTIONS