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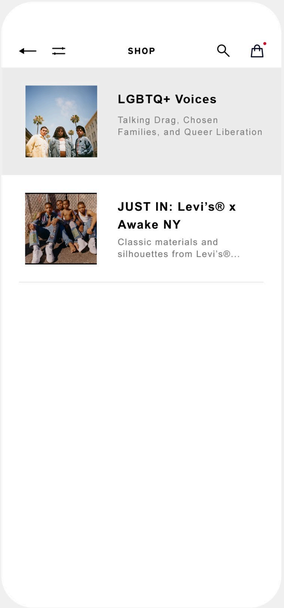

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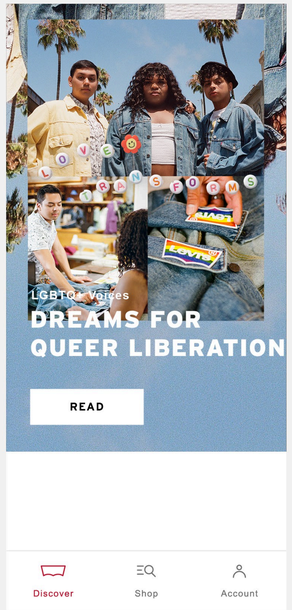

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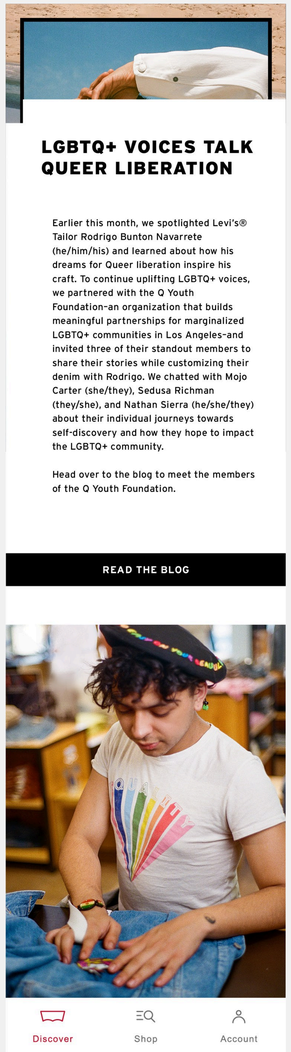

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50 / 50 Media

LGBTQ+ Voices

DREAMS FOR QUEER LIBERATION

Earlier this month, we spotlighted Levi's® Tailor Rodrigo Bunton Navarrete (he/him/his) and learned about how his dreams for Queer liberation inspire his craft. To continue uplifting LGBTQ+ voices, we partnered with the Q Youth Foundation–an organization that builds meaningful partnerships for marginalized LGBTQ+ communities in Los Angeles–and invited three of their standout members to share their stories while customizing their denim with Rodrigo. We chatted with Mojo Carter (she/they), Sedusa Richman (they/she), and Nathan Sierra (he/she/they) about their individual journeys towards self-discovery and how they hope to impact the LGBTQ+ community.

Head over to the blog to meet the members of the Q Youth Foundation.

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LGBTQ+ VOICES TALK QUEER LIBERATION

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Head over to the blog to meet the members of the Q Youth Foundation.

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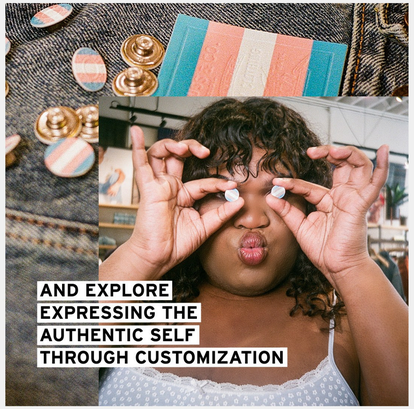
IN-FEED | 02

IN-FEED | 03



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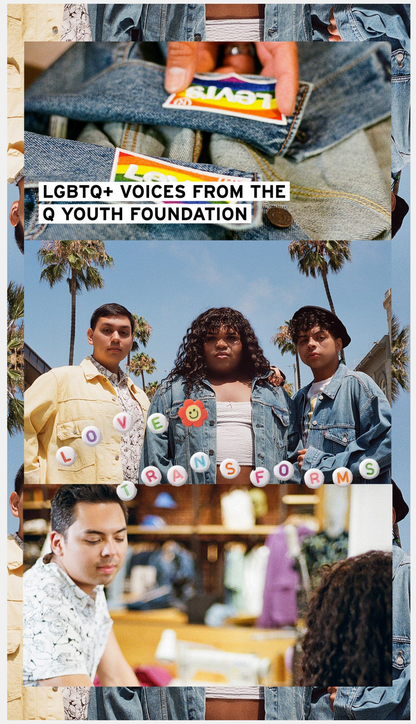
STORY | 01



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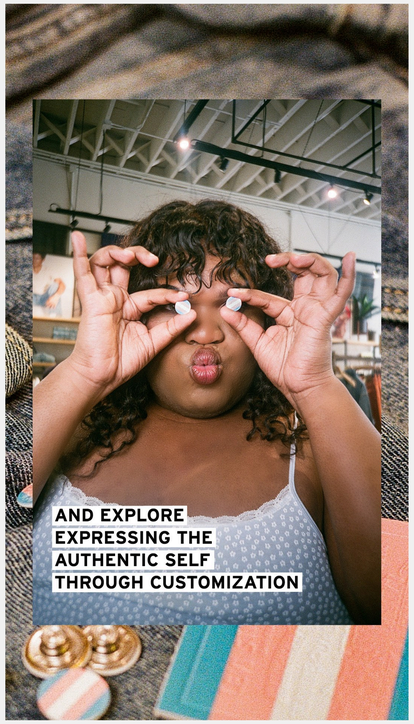

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STORY | 04

May / June 2022

PRIDE SPOKEN THROUGH CUSTOMIZATION: LGBTQ+ VOICES FROM THE Q YOUTH FOUNDATION TALK QUEER LIBERATION

Earlier this month, we spotlighted LaroyA Tailor Rooting-Bryson Newcombe (he/him/they) and learned about how he dreams for Queer liberation inspire his creative practice. Today, we're sharing conversations with three more Q Youth Foundation organization that tackle meaningful partnerships for marginalized LGBTQ communities in Los Angeles and United States of their selected members to share their stories and perspectives on Pride Month. Meet Mojo Carter (she/they), Sedusa Richman (he/she), and Nathan Sierra (he/she/they) talk about their journeys towards self-discovery and how they hope to impact the LGBTQ+ community.

Photo by Jeremy Lawrence for Q Youth Foundation

MEET MOJO CARTER (SHE/THEY)

WHAT DOES PRIDE MEAN TO YOU?

Mojo Carter Stand out and be who you are. It is all about being seen, heard, and creating a platform to inspire. It only takes one person to make change and I strive to create that space every day.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START DOING DRAG?

MC I am from North Jersey and suburb life is very like life in the city but there is no diversity. I was bullied growing up for being a "boy who wears dresses" and I had to live my authentic self filled by expander. Kip Make up was also a component of expanding my self-expression. I was inspired by the confidence and how it gave me confidence. I did not have a dad and I fortunate to have brought into a career in addition to drag.

TELL US ABOUT SOMEONE THAT INSPIRED YOU TO START YOUR JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY?

MC: I found identity in my relationship with my Aunt Helen. She gave me the confidence to not be she, they, and I am just one step" is what she used to tell me. For all the people in the Queer community, I want to be a light and a beacon of hope and inspiration. Around, it's a known family and be seen for who you are, and be loved.

WHAT CONVERSATION NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT IN THE JOURNEY FOR QUEER LIBERATION?

MC: There needs to be more room for Queer disabled people. By creating more accessibility and opportunity for little part of the community we will get closer to a truly inclusive Queer safe space.

WHAT DOES ALLYSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

MC: Having a sense of empathy and being able to engage with the Queer community is amazing to see how many allies have come out of the woodwork to support the community and that's just the beginning. the fight is not over.

"It is all about being seen, heard, and creating a platform to inspire. It takes one person to make change and I strive to create that everyday. "

- MOJO CARTER

MEET SEDUSA RICHMAN (THEY/SHE)

WHAT DOES PRIDE MEAN TO YOU?

Sedusa Richman Being yourself authentically and not allowing any part of you to make someone else feel comfortable.

WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF FEELING LIKE YOU COULDN'T BE YOU?

SR When I was 3 or 4 years old I said, "This cat is so cute" and my dad immediately said, "Boys don't say that or act like that!" That is my first memory of being human and the start of society policing me in the way I present myself. My family experience and relationships with my family have changed every and the silver lining was that it actually brought my family closer together. It could give anyone the opportunity to be a light and a beacon of hope and inspiration for the LGBTQ+ community. I want

OFF THE CUFF

SEE ALL CATEGORIES

PRIDE SPOKEN THROUGH CONTRIBUTION: LGBTQ+ VOICES FROM THE 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TALK QUEER LIBERATION

Carlos Ona hosts, has spotlighted (w/P Jay Ortiz) and is a Co-Founder (w/Rachel Ka) and Internal Advisor for Talk Queer Liberation, a non-profit youth cohort. To continue uplifting LGBTQ+ voices and contribute to the 1 year anniversary of Talk Queer Liberation, we asked a meaningful conversation for marginalized people in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and standout members to share their stories and what Pride means to them. Thanks to Carlos Ona (Instagram handle: @carlos.ona), Sedusa Richman (Twitter, Instagram: @sedusa), Nathan Sierra (Non-individual Government Agency self-discovery) and Ross Hayes to impact the LGBTQ+ community.

MEET MOJO CARTER (SHE/THEY)

WHAT PRIDE MEANS TO YOU?

Mojo Carter: Pride means to me, you are. It is all about being seen, heard, and creating a safe space for people to express themselves and be themselves and strive to create that space every day.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO DRAG?

MOJO: I am from North Jersey and never thought I would be MOJO, the club queen in my younger years. I learned to see performance as a form of self-care, and I wanted to share that with the world through Drag superstar. Kai Wolve was a major influence on my journey to Drag. I discovered Drag in Kansas City, found self-expression and helped launch my Drag family there. Drag has been a tool for fellowship to connect to my community in addition to drag.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL POSITION TOWARDS LIBERATION / SELF-DISCOVERY?

MOJO: Visual stability in my relationship with my Mom. She gave me the confidence to not be shy. "You do you, you don't need to be anyone else for me to love you." I'm at the mercy of the queer community who struggle with family acceptance and I'm so grateful that I have a family who supports me and loves me as YOU MOJO.

WHAT CONVERSATION NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT IN THE COMMUNITY POST-VICTORY LIBERATION?

MOJO: There needs to be a conversation for Queer disabled people. By creating more accessible spaces, we can be more inclusive and the community will be proud to be a truly inclusive Queer safe space.

WHAT DOES LIBERATION MEAN TO YOU?

MOJO: Liberation is accepting and being able to be yourself. Liberation means that everyone can be themselves and enjoy their Queer community, and that's just the beginning the right to be Queer.

"It is all about being seen, heard, and creating a safe space for people. It takes one person to make change and I strive to create that everyday."

– MOJO CARTER

MEET SEDUSA RICHMAN (THEY/THEM)

WHAT DOES PRIDE MEAN TO YOU?

Sedusa Richman: Being proud! authentically and for allowing any part of me to be expressed unapologetically.

WHAT IS YOUR FIRST MEMORY OF FEELING LIKE YOU WERE IN THE COMMUNITY?

SR: When I was 3 or 4 years old I said, "This was so much more fun" and immediately said, "Guys don't say that or do that." I was in a Mexican family that celebrated Cinco de Mayo and I saw people picking me in the way I present myself. I felt like I was in a safe space and I felt like I was more myself. I remember a specific moment where it mattered. My dad recently passed away and I was at his funeral and I was in a Mexican family and I was together in a time of sadness. I am lucky to have had that moment and it strengthened my ability to advocate for advocacy in spaces of the Queer community and I have been able to carry that with me and I have been able to be a leader in my community because of that.

WHO IS YOUR GREATEST INSPIRATION?

Part of being a Black Queer Person I am able to connect and inspire people to be their true Queer authentic selves.

"I could give advice to people of the Queer community struggling with relationships, I'm not the best with dating. Those relationships by educating and/or finding a chosen family to support you in your Queerness."

– SEDUSA RICHMAN

MEET NATHAN SIERRA (HE/SHE/THEY)

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PRIDE CELEBRATION?

Nathan Sierra: My first memory of celebrating Pride was being at the Pride parades on the Sales with my mom. But the first time I felt like I was in a safe space was at my first Pride where I was celebrating with my friends and family. I felt like I was in a safe space and I felt like I was in a family. I realized how lucky I was to have such great support and that that was what I was looking for in a community. Some of the memories I have with my partner with Q Youth Foundation is the time we spent at Pride and the time we spent with friends having fun and celebrating that is the world.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PRIDE CELEBRATING PRIDE?

MS: My first memory of celebrating Pride was celebrating Pride in the parades on the Sales with my mom. But the first time I felt like I was in a safe space was at my first Pride where I was celebrating with my friends and family. I realized there is so much more fun and I realized that I was in a family. I realized how lucky I was to have such great support and that that time we came together. Pride should be a time for people to come together and celebrate.

WHO IS A QUEER ACTIVIST THAT HAS IMPACTED YOUR JOURNEY AND THE QUEER SPACE?

MS: Kai Wolve is a Latina Transgender activist from Kansas City, Missouri and outside of the community. It was her journey and her work that I saw and I learned from. Her journey and her experiences to transgender people and her journey to be herself motivated me. BY MOJO

"One of the main reasons I partner with Q Youth Foundation is the ability to make change in the community, all while living my truth and cascading that to the world."

– NATHAN SIERRA

WHO IS A QUEER ACTIVIST THAT HAS IMPACTED YOUR JOURNEY AND THE QUEER SPACE?

Ross Hayes: Sexuality is a prime homogenizer, and that has impacted my friends and outside of the community. It was a journey and it was a journey that I have experienced. I have had the experiences to transgender people and I have had the journey to be myself. I motivated me. BY MOJO

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