

NO LAUGHING MATTER
technical script

LX
VFX
SFX

LX1- COLD WASH. (As audience enter - Stage lights on)

*Leo is seen sprinkling pipe cleaners onto the ground as the audience enter.
The audience are seated.*

(Audience sit – Any additional audience assistance seating lighting out.)

Leo is sat on a block holding his laptop, slight stage left. The projector shows his laptop screen. He is waiting... it's silent. Eventually there is a team's call. This terrifies him.

VFX 1- (1 THERAPIST)

THERAPIST- Hello

LEO- Hi

THERAPIST- How are you?

LEO- Yeah, alright thanks you?

THERAPIST- Yes, thank you. Now, should we jump right into it? I know you've been through a few of these before but I'm just going to have to ask some basic questions to make sure our files we've been sent from you GP are all accurate and up to date alright?

LEO- Yep, sounds fine to me.

THERAPIST- Okay brilliant. I have your legal name written down here but I won't even attempt to pronounce that- the Welsh language is baffling to me. *there's lots of typing noises* How do you pronounce that?

LEO: *coughing* Uh sorry my webcam isn't working, is that okay?

THERAPIST- Yes, we can make it work don't worry... Let's just get on with it shall we. Okay and just to confirm your date of birth?

LEO: 31st July 2002

THERAPIST: What is your preferred name

LEO: Uh- Leo, Leo Pawlin... like the star sign yeah... L-E-O P-A-W-L-I-N

THERAPIST: Do you have a male hair cut

LEO: Oh uhhh... yes?

THERAPIST: Just because I can't see you could you describe it to me?

LEO: Uhh yeah, brown... short...

THERAPIST: How short?

LEO: Like a grade one on the back and sides?

THERAPIST: Perfect. uh are you gay?

LEO: bisexual

THERAPIST: Are you sexually active?

LEO: Yes.

THERAPIST: Is there any chance you could be pregnant?

LEO: GOD. I hope not.

THERAPIST: How many sexual partners have you had in the last six months?

LEO: Just the one...

THERAPIST: Are you in a relationship? Or seeing anyone?

LEO: Buy me a drink first, I mean Yes

THERAPIST: With a man or a woman?

LEO: ...a man

THERAPIST: Are you mentally... sound, mentally stable

LEO: I'm on anxiety medication but because of the meds im fine

THERAPIST, Great- Are you autistic?

LEO: Nooo...

THERAPIST: Which bathroom do you use

LEO: Generally Disabled. Or the mens, depending on where I am and how desperate I am- not opposed to a bush.

THERAPIST: At work or school have you presented as a boy?

LEO: Yeah at uni and work everyone knows im a man

THERAPIST- Okay getting into the more technical questions now. How long have you lived in your preferred gender?

LEO: I'd say about 4-I mean 6 years now

THERAPIST: When did you start feeling like something was wrong?

LEO: Wrong? Ooo that's a uh a tough one. When I stopped singing because it sounded just all wrong?

THERAPIST: Okay how about this, were you a tomboy per say?

LEO: *sarcastically* sure

THERAPIST: During your childhood did you experiment with your presentation?

LEO: Yeah, I played dress-up loads- proper little theatre kid I was.

THERAPIST: Do you remember the first time when you realised your gender was different to the one you were assigned at birth?

LEO: So, funny story, I was watching IM A CELEB and I was looking at how flat ant and decs chests were and then- you know what never mind

THERAPIST: Have you felt satisfied being a girl

LEO: Not really? Though that's quite hard to quantify? My childhood wasn't completely shit surprisingly.

THERAPIST: Do you feel unhappy with your physical characteristics?

LEO: yeah

THERAPIST: Do you wish you were born in a different body? That you grew up as a boy?

LEO: *pause* I mean yes of course but-
No just that... I wouldn't be me then I'd be... but obviously as a boy id... but then-
uhhh. Can I just take a second? To umm collect my thoughts? I mean your breaking
up the signal on your end seems a bit off- you're wavelength is uhh *making error
noises*

Leo closes the laptop.

LX 2- A WARM WASH.

SFX 1- (BODY WAS MADE)

Leo applies makeup, dances to the song setting the tone for the chaos of this new reality.

The song stops abruptly. The clown sees one of the boxes and double takes.

Explores it. Sniffs it- gags. Shakes it violently. It's the terf box.

He edges the box for a while, deciding if he should step in.

He pulls out a puppet made of pipe cleaners and sticks it over his face.

SFX 2 – (TERF AUDIO)

The puppet is removed. The clown looks panicked.

VFX 2- (2- TERF TWEETS)

Leo dances to the song, putting on a wig and taking the piss. He then reads the tweets on the screen and whips off his wig and sighs. He waves his hands and shushes to stop the music.

There is a moment of silence.

He spots another box. He sits next to it. Smiles at it fondly.

He sensually unveils the boyfriend puppet.

VFX 3- (JAMIE SPEECH)

Jamie appears on the screen. I compare them saying look look its obviously him. I get very excited pointing between the two. Jamie begins to talk about how gender is a social construct. Gibson girl fades into the background and I dance with the puppet. It gets more heated. I sit the puppet up against the box and perform a strip tease- clown style. I reveal my nipple and it has a smiley face on it. I'm getting carried away. I'm walking backwards pretending to make out with the puppet through his mouth. I accidentally step into the next box. The music ends abruptly.

Leo's back foot enters the aggression box. I freeze. The music stops suddenly. I drop pipe-Jamie. I face the audience with fear. Get hit.

I pull red pipe cleaners out of my mouth. Step out of the box.

SFX 3- (COMA)

Leo slowly builds up courage. He goes and does a slow dance using the photos from my childhood motif. Which turns into me taping myself up after the aggression box.

This grows into taping down my chest more violently.

I approach the next box with familiarity. It's a bit broken already.

I put it on my head.

VFX 4- (4- MUM AND GAY TEST)

I start moving around as my 'mum' talks. I bump into boxes as I go. I quickly shuffle away and towards the therapist area. Reactions to what my mum is saying occur occasionally when the box is lifted.

I find the therapist box and have an idea.

I begin to complete an Am I Trans test, projected behind me with serious hacking music. When the result pops up- an inkblot test is taken. Leo impersonates the inkblots.

Mid way through the therapist appears and interrupts.

THERAPIST: Uh Hello, sorry are you still there I think I can hear something. Would you like me to ask again?

I'm panicking. I drop to the floor find a box and throw it at the laptop. I unplug the laptop and go through multiple extension cords trying to turn it off. The therapist stops. I get the final plug and look proud of myself. The plug turns into something I can swing round as a penis.

I dive into a box.

VFX5- (5- END, SAD YAY)

Pluck out a pipe cleaner penis. Bounce on the spot as the video begins to play. I stick the pipe cleaner out of my pants. I use it as a gun. I use the penis as a hat.

The Grindr video finishes and is interrupted by NATURAL WOMAN. I waltz with the grindr box. I get frustrated at all the boxes and mess around me. The song is Interrupted by the government laws. I give birth during the end of the song, and this is my worst fear.

As I am recovering from the fast pace of the last segments TELEVANGELISM begins to play. During this song I recognise the moves and motifs of me as a kid. The photos of me doing those moves are shown. When the music slows, I make my way to the back of the stage.

The mastermind music begins to play as I march forwards, removing my clown makeup. I return to my original seat with the therapist laptop open and on my lap.

LX3- COLD WASH

THERAPIST: Excuse me? Hello? Sorry I think your connection is a little weak? Hello?

LEO: Sorry hi yeah, I'm here uh yeah Sorry could you just um repeat the question?

THERAPIST: Do you wish you were born in a different body? That you grew up as a boy?

-Pause-

LEO- Well...

LEO: No, because then I would be an entirely different person. I got to experience the joys of femininity without judgement, I was able to dress up as all my favourite women, tinkerbell, the statue of liberty, pippy longstocking- and no one gave a shit cos it fit what I was supposed to do, I liked what I was supposed to like, I was able to do ballet, and dance and things that if I was born a boy, would have been a far bigger struggle for other people to cope with. Little did they know there was a little gay boy hiding under there. I was socialised to all the little girl stereotypes, quiet, cute and polite. I don't think I've ever shouted, like properly shouted... and I wouldn't change that.... I mean she was- I mean I was, a cute girl! And I accept that, I don't reject a huge 18 years of my life because it doesn't fit the governments ideas of what I should think... but I guess for the purpose of the tick box exercise, do you want to just put yes?

LX4- BLACKOUT