

# Poetry

## **Old and Grey and Gay**

In the film Sunset BOULEVARD the leading lady finds it HARD to face the TRUTH which is her YOUTH is a thing of the PAST. Her DELUSION CONFUSION means CONSEQUENTLY SHE fails to SEE her POPULARITY as a MOVIE must-SEE didn't LAST.

The ANTITHESIS of THIS happened to ME when I was filmed for a DOCUMENTARY in which not ONLY my same-sex SEXUALITY but my mature AGE takes centre STAGE. Thanks to that MINI MOVIE the HISTORY of my SEXUALITY will outlive mere mortal ME by being kept ALIVE in a film ARCHIVE and thus this Liverpudlian lesbian's LEGACY will BE POSTHUMOUSLY I will have VISIBILITY DIGITALLY and I will BE forever FREE of the closet's CAGE!

The luxurious LIBERTY of me feeling FREE to PUBLICLY share my SEXUALITY STORY is in CONTRAST to my painful PAST so mine is not a WHOLLY HAPPY TALE. FEAR of receiving a QUEER-BASHING THRASHING DUE TO homophobic HATE made me a compromised queer chameleon who pretended to be STRAIGHT so I used to DWELL in the homosexual-hiding HELL of a sapphic-stifling CELL because my marriage to a MALE was like being in JAIL.

Hiding from HOMOPHOBIA caused closet CLAUSTROPHOBIA and I suffered suffocation but I didn't DARE come out for AIR for FEAR of anti-QUEER, lesbian-loathing REVULSION. For many a DECADE I was AFRAID to tell even my friends and FAMILY about my SEXUALITY which PAINFULLY perpetuated in ME my closet-clinging COMPULSION.

I might have gone round the BEND if it hadn't been for FRIEND MERSEYSIDE, a queer community support system in which I could CONFIDE and that ORGANISATION was my SALVATION making more bearable my sexual ORIENTATION ALIENATION. Its kind counsellors on the end of a PHONE meant I wasn't ALONE thanks to them lending me a QUEER EAR so THANKFULLY I stopped suffering SILENTLY and sapphic SOLIDARITY replaced my MISERY with ELATION.

Friend also provided the safe SPACE of a meeting PLACE where WEEKLY sapphic sisters socialised SECRETLY And in that SANCTUARY TEMPORARILY albeit SURREPTITIOUSLY we

were at least PRIVATELY FREE to be open about our  
HOMOSEXUALITY thanks to queer COMMUNITY CAMARADERIE.

Merseyside's queer COMMUNITY was where homosexual hugs and queer carnal kisses were not looked upon NEGATIVELY and could take place OPENLY and WE had no need for the LIES of DISGUISE because THERE we WERE respectfully regarded by approving EYES.

It was where we who were GAY or queer in any WAY could dance the night and our cares AWAY but when the music stopped and the lights went up in the cold light of DAY we had to return to where we were at best MARGINALISED and at worst DESPISED and DEMONISED by everybody except our queer comrades and ALLIES.

Therefore in the wider world for safety's SAKE I was a FAKE who had to FORSAKE SEXUALITY AUTHENTICITY so SEXUALITY VISIBILITY was an IMPOSSIBILITY for ME and COMPULSIVELY I used to HIDE.

Fast forward to TODAY and I am an out and proud GAY thanks to law in the UK being on the LGBTQI...A community's SIDE and my strong sense of queer PRIDE instilled in ME by me worldwide queer kin FAMILY and SOLIDARITY means WE can say, "To Hell with anti-queer CONFORMITY!" which thanks to queer CAMARADERIE we can take in our STRIDE.

For QUEERS golden YEARS can cause TEARS because some SEE being queer and old as a double WHAMMY but this prehistoric PUFF has had ENOUGH of confidence crisis GUFF so over my self-DOUBT has no CLOUT!

I RECLAIM and REFRAME and proudly PROCLAIM each ageist and homophobic negative NAME SOCIETY has for ME - I am an old DEAR who is QUEER, I am an old FART with a homo HEART, I am an old BAG who is a female FAG, I am a HAG in dykey DRAG and an old boiler I may BE but I am bent BEAUTIFULLY so you SEE I am a bold BIDDY who WHOLEHEARTEDLY embraces her mature age and her HOMOSEXUALITY SO ALTHOUGH I am old and GREY and GAY I wouldn't want to be any other WAY and WITHOUT a DOUBT this old TROUT is OUT!

*by Ruthie Adamson*

**Ruthie Adamson** is a wonky wordsmith and a super sick superhero who is also a Mother, a friend, a Jew-Bu, and last but by no means least, an anti-speciesist vegan. She is an activist performance poet who performs poetry on a wide range of subjects at various venues to audiences large and small. She has performed at several festivals including DaDaFest (a deaf and disability arts festival) and Liverpool Pride. She is in the lineup for Diversity Festival 2018 and some of her published poetry is destined to be housed in Liverpool's Central Library's Picton Reading Room. Her famous fans include the singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega, Liverpool poet Brian Patten, The Scaffold's John Gorman and the UK queer community's David Hoyle. She is neither famous or infamous herself but she is working on being both.