



Lars Oskan-Henriksens tale ved åbningen af Winter Pride

Taler

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Forperson for Copenhagen Pride

Dato

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Sted

Huset i Magstræde, København

1 When I grew up in the mid 80's in the small provincial town of Holstebro, I
literally believed, I was the only gay in the village.

5 This is in a time before the internet, before smart phones and dating apps and
even prior to the 159-contact number, that some of you may remember.

I knew of six other gay men in my town – they were couples, known in the city
scape and talked about behind their back in friendly slur – but slurs all the
same. And I was number seven. This is what I believed – and the others, being
10 couples, had all met each other, so I was the last person standing and I very early
on decided, that my only chance to find love, would be to leave - move – turn
my back on my upbringing, friends, family and everything, I had grown up
with – somehow, because I instinctively felt, that out there – somewhere,
would be a community waiting for me, ready to embrace me – take me in and
15 offer me the love, comfort and sense of belonging, that I didn't feel amongst the
people of my home town.

I was always a gay boy. Even before, I found myself out. But no one had the
decency or courtesy or common sense to tell me. I was left to feel confused,
20 alone and wrong in the sense that all references I heard to homosexuality was
either slur, ridicule or people feeling sorry for the unfortunate.

I had this strong radar as a kid – I picked up on reflections of myself in the
weirdest of places – but if and when they were there -I guarantee you, that I
25 picked them up: Danny Drags, the first male drag duo to be known at a
national level in Denmark in Se og Hør – a celebrity gossip magazine, Joey in
the sitcom, soap, Boy George and Culture Club, Michael Schumacher on
national radio, the film Friends forever by Stefan Henszelmann – through

30 which I developed a lifelong adoration for national handball team captain,
Morten Stig Christensen. Who ever they were and however young I was and
unaware of my own identity, in them, I strangely found myself reflected.

By their visibility, they gave me hope, confidence and purpose – there was a way
35 forward – a life to be lived – and one of happiness and fulfillment at that.

As a teen I felt very insecure. You may look at me now, and find it difficult to
imagine, that I was ever a twinkish, lean young gay stereotype, the kind we grow
up believing, to be the “right way to be gay.

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And you would be right!

I was never that- at 19 and 20 I was equally stocky, opinionated, reactionary,
pimpled, short and loud, as I am now. And I had discovered a world, where that
45 was not necessarily cherished either. The world and the community that I had
longed for as a boy growing up, was not as embracing and inclusive as I had
hoped. When I entered the LGBTI+ community – which back in the day was
to a much larger extent the LG-community, I distinctly didn’t fit into the mold
– the ideal was far from me. For years I felt, that being gay, was something you
50 could have a talent for – or not – and I clearly didn’t fall within that category. I
didn’t feel invited in, part of something, couldn’t live up to the standards that I
understood to exist.

No one, who has felt othered and an outsider, should ever feel left out, when
55 they meet their own people. No one should ever not feel welcomed and have a
sense that they do not belong or do not fit in.

It has taken me many years to reach a place, where I am who I am – and where
for that, I need no excuses.

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Where I dare believe, that I have a place and a voice and a contribution, that is
valuable.

Where I feel, that I belong.

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This is what the pride movement is all about.

Standing proud – regardless of all the shortcomings and insecurities, we all feel.

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Lifting each other up and cherishing our differences and what each of us brings to the table.

We are strong, because we are different.

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Wise, because we have diverse experiences.

And kind, because, we all need to belong.

80 The theme for this week is empowerment.

To me, that is a message to that insecure boy, who many years ago arrived on the doorsteps of a community with no Pride – and no welcoming committee, that we are here – this week and every day of the year to lift you up, To
85 appreciate your contributions, to cherish your identity, to love your personality, to respect your opinions, to listen to your views and to learn from you.

90 Here is your home. Here is your community, we need you. Because with our you – right here with us tonight. We would be poorer.

Empowerment is us – through us, with us, by us. From us. It is belonging, being included, to be respected and cherished.

95 Let us spent this week in THAT mindset – shake new hands, smile to strangers, move over to create space for newcomers, invite people into our circle.

Together, we can create the world, as we all know, we need it!

100 Happy Pride everyone.

Kilde

Manuskript tilsendt fra taler

105 **Kildetype**

Digitalt manuskript

Tags

Regnbuebevægelsen, Åbningstale

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<https://www.dansketaler.dk/tale/lars-oskan-henriksens-tale-ved-abningen-af-winter-pride>

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