

Hey. Welcome to the latest episode of Shit We Don't Talk About. The podcast that takes on topics that need more open and honest discussion. Which means some of these topics are triggering. So please take care when listening. And I'll always give you a trigger warning. For instance, here's one: Every episode contains swear words. You've been warned! Make sure to check out the show notes which include an accessibility transcript of the podcast and all of the links for our guests at ShitWeDontTalkAboutPodcast.com.

It's episode 80 and my guest is Jameson Johnson, aka Ophelia Peaches, a youth drag artist extraordinaire, co founder of Dragutante and an amazing advocate and voice for queer youth. In this episode we discuss gender fluidity, queer youth in America & the political climate against drag queens. Tune in, it gets good, here we go!

SPEAKERS

Jameson/Ophelia, Mia Voss

Mia Voss

Hi Jameson

Jameson/Ophelia

Hi there

Mia Voss

Hi Jameson Ophelia

Jameson/Ophelia

I know it's weird having like two names definitely being Jameson Ophelia. Definitely like when I'm in boy mode with my little air quotes. That's, that's Jameson and then drag is all the Ophelia stuff. So it is I always just put Jameson slash Ophelia for everything just because I don't know who I'm gonna get.

Mia Voss

I love that too, by the way, that just leaves it open. Alright, so I'm Mia Voss as you all know, my identifiers are female, late 50s. Blonde. Today I'm wearing sort of a wild shirt that makes you want to adjust your TV set if you're actually watching a video of this. And tell us about you, Jamison, Ophelia.

Jameson/Ophelia

I'm Jamison. My identifiers are I'm wearing this very lovely Barbie pink silk blouse was thrown necklace, my black glasses so that I can actually see things and I have this long, lovely flowing brunette hair that goes all the way down to my back. And I've cut it every year and I cut like 12 inches off all the time. And it's still so long. I'm so lucky to have like such luscious hair,

Mia Voss

as about to say that is making some folks low grade or high grade jealous. Absolutely. also wearing a gorgeous set of double stranded pearls I see.

Jameson/Ophelia

Right? The pearls! I mean, after I saw, like a lot of male artists recently have been wearing jewelry and pearls. And I just love that because like as a gender fluid person, I'm like, okay, you know, we're breaking gender norms. And I love pearls. So

Mia Voss

I also think the clutch your pearls thing

Jameson/Ophelia

In today's political climate, I am always clutching my pearls.

Mia Voss

Absolutely. And I really like your background as well too, which showcases, literally, some of your wigs that you were in drag, which is going to be part of our conversation today, too. So let's dive in and talk about you and your journey. You're 18 years old, you've been in this world for a while. So you've you've seen the climate change. So tell us about you.

Jameson/Ophelia

So I started drag actually, when I was 13 years old, well officially started drag when I was 13 years old, I've been dressing up and I've been kind of gender fluid. Since I was six, I did Princess parties with my sister all the time. And at 13, I just decided, hey, I want to I want to try drag. So I had a drag queen themed birthday party. And I just felt so much like me that I wanted to do it forever. And I remember telling my mom in the car while the streetlights were going past us at night after my drag dinner. It was just like Mom, I feel more me than I've ever felt before. And I just I couldn't get enough drag. And I knew that there were other people out there as well that were my age 13 that were kind of thinking of drag or thinking of something that was like drag, because drag really is just a performance art. And I know a lot right now in the current political climate, a lot of people are questioning, you know, whether drag is okay for young people, whether drag should be kind of in the family friendly genre, but it is it's a

performance art. I've seen all the different types of Drag and they are all so valid. And one is so unique to the other. You can have the rue girls you can have. I've seen people seeing musical theater and do it so fabulously. And it's just really just an opportunity for me as a person who takes a lot of courage from my drag. It's kind of like my superhero, like I put on the wig and it's like my cape, and then I can go save the world. So I just think the drag is this this beautiful art form. And this way for me to be the most Jameson I can be through Ophelia. And I love it somewhere.

Mia Voss

When I love this, I was listening to your or watching your interview with Discovery plus, and I'll put some links in the show notes to that too, because you need to see this being featured that was an incredible opportunity for you and I love it was actually your mom that was talking about her reaction to you saying that specifically of coming back from that party and saying, I feel more like me, it gives me goosebumps telling that she was in tears when she you know tells the story of of seeing you actually feel that comfortable. And then I'm going to quote you to you, you said that when you're in drag you feel like it's an extroverted version of your female side. And I think that is fucking wonderful and so succinct way a succinct way of saying that. It's not saying whether it's a gay or straight it's literally just as extroverted version of your female side.

Jameson/Ophelia

It definitely is I mean when I when I am in drag I move more comfortably and femininely and it's so crazy to be gender fluid and have drag as an outlet, because a lot of times before I was in drag, I kind of felt like an imposter I felt like too, too much in the middle of, you know, I'm not masculine enough to be a man. And I'm not feminine enough to be female presenting, but I like both of those things. And to have drag and have, you know, like, I have long hair as a boy. So kind of becoming a woman, so to say, wasn't really a different change for me. But to put on like a giant, freaking six inch swoosh of pink hair is huge wig, really, like emphasized that feminine side of me and that feminine part inside of my body. And I was like, Oh my gosh, this is this is just a way for me to feel more like I am doing something to be feminine. And I mean, more recently, I have learned definitely that gender fluidity is this beautiful thing that it can be whatever is up to you. So you don't you know other people's gender fluidity is not the same as yours. After going into the GLAAD awards, and meeting Jonathan Van Ness, and Alok

Mia Voss

whoa whoa wait.. you did?

Jameson/Ophelia

It was so affirming to be in the same room as these people who were so graciously themselves and doing things for the queer community. I mean, that entire room that night glad raised \$200,000 for queer organizations. And that was so affirming to me, because I saw people that were like myself, people that identified kind of in the same area that I did. And they were also making change. And they were also advocating for younger people. So I had a total fangirl moment with Jonathan Van Ness I was, You're so beautiful, and you do so many things for this community, you have saved my life just being yourself. And being that person that I can look up to and say, Oh, my gosh, Jonathan did this or why can't I? And it's just it's such a, an eye opening moment to see other people who are just like you, because a lot of times, especially when I was starting my gender fluid, like kind of character arc, if you will. I was it was very isolated. I felt like I was the only one doing it. I was like, Oh, I'm the only one who doesn't like having like hair. I'm the only one who, you know, feels uncomfortable in my body when I you know, I'm dressing more masculine. And then I found these people and I'm not alone. And it was so beautiful to know that

Mia Voss

it's really hard to see how it's been scared and bullied out of and spoken out of society because it's been something that's always existed. And for those of you folks are getting your panties in a twat. What about this one? I mean, think about Milton Berle and think about oh, gosh, are you mama no, this even Flip Wilson playing Geraldine. And shows in the 60s. And it's always been that now. It's been campy or somewhat as a joke and so forth. So that's always a little bit of a balance. And it as well to like is it? Is it being fun or making fun of right. And so but but what what scares me a little bit to get serious for a second is not that we're not is that this is very, very similar to what was happening 100 years ago in Europe, I my boyfriend and I watched oh, gosh, I'm gonna forget it. Oh, it's it's the the drag show with Liza Minnelli. I just forgot the name of the movie. I'll remember it in a second. But it was just wonderful drag ship movie about drag in Berlin in the 30s. And it was really, really scary. And the movie came out in the 70s. Which seems like a million years ago, I'll remember in a second. But it was really frightening to see because it watched the rise of the Nazi Germany. And starting with specifically how wonderful and fluid and open and beautiful Berlin was in the 20s. And then to see that that was something that they really took as an issue of coming after anyone who looked different. And that's what I try and keep my my mind around not to sit in fear all the time. But to go, this shit is real. That the threat is real, right?

Jameson/Ophelia

And it is crazy to think that we are

Mia Voss

Cabaret, by the way is the movie. So please. Oh my gosh, yes, please do and then get back to me when you do but yes, to go on that point. It's scary, right?

Jameson/Ophelia

It is. And to think that we are kind of going back into this like 60s America, where work where people are threatened and drag queens can be arrested again. That is so crazy to me. I was asked to do a performance in Florida with a bunch of youth. And all of these kids were around my age, same generation. Some of these kids were in the same like high school grade as I was, but because I had just turned 18 I could get arrested for performing with minors. And that was so crazy to me to think that that my friends Just being two months younger than me, I could get arrested for hanging out with them in drag. And I think that we're kind of going back into this, like recession of having this kind of gay panic. This fear is so crazy. But I mean politics and society, they always swing in a pendulum, there's this one moment where everything is so open and free, and people are accepted and there's equity and equality. And then it goes right the other way, and we're all back to, to the the queer scare, the Lavender Scare. And yeah, I hope that my generation can change that, hopefully sooner than later. But it's still crazy.

Mia Voss

It is and, and to think so, you know, for your age of 18. And I think about this a lot with social media, I got onto Facebook, in I think 2008. So I was 30 something or other. So you know, came came into that world. And so I realized in the difference when in 2017 or 16, when when Trump was elected, and then came into office that the entire time I had been on social media, Obama had been an office. And so seeing with you, you know, this unit from your very young youth to now it had always been sort of like the old times, kind of like with abortion, you don't I mean, I'm really I'm old enough to remember and it was just, it was just like, Oh, thank God that shifts over right, that the pendulum has swung back and with such a vengeance, which is why conversations like this are so important. And I but I do remember specifically thinking like, where did all these can people come from that have just come out of the woodwork and of course that was that flyover state, you know, rage of being feeling like they hadn't been heard for so long during the Obama administration when we made all this progress and so forth. And and then all of a sudden to see it like, oh, boy, it's always been there. It's just that and now it's being fed. And I mentioned to you before we started the podcast about something I've been listening to it's a podcast called upstream. Upstream conversation. I'll put a link to this as well. And there was a specifically one with a guest named Alison Escalante, and something that they said was so interesting. They're talking about of course, like how serious it is, like even right to exist, with right to exist for trans and for gay, and they said, they said it this way. They said that right now, it's a specific political strategy. And it's manufactured politically, that this culture warfare, and this fear and I just thought that

was such an interesting thing. I mean, they really, they're not just walking around, getting you know, getting their again, their panties in a twat was please, please, bro, uh, please use it. And there. It's a very, very specific strategy. And unfortunately, it's gone. It's been using this trans and drag, the drag is as a weapon has been weaponized.

Jameson/Ophelia

It is it's it's not only a weapon, but it's also distraction. I mean, these these politicians are using queer people as a way to say, Hey, look over here, look at look at the the queer men is so that we can change things so that we can stop abortions, we can make drag illegal, and the only thing that's going to change it is if we vote, then I just turned 18. So I am definitely voting. But it's not just voting for your president. And that's what a lot of people I feel, especially in my generation don't understand. You have to vote for the small legislations you have to vote for everything. I mean, Colorado at least is lucky enough to have a gay governor to openly queer state representatives, and senators who are allies to the queer community. I mean, sure, we have the crazies and the the the far right, people who are against the queer community, but they are they're very slimmed few in Colorado. And we are, we are kind of this queer bubble. And we have to keep it that way by voting by having our state representatives there for us. And I think my generation could change that especially because I mean, 40% of Gen Z is queer. And wow, 26% of America's population is Gen Z. And those are the CDC statistics. And to see that 40% of my population is queer and then 20% of all of America are my generation. And we're all turning 18 right now and we can all vote in the next elections, whether it's for your city mayor, or for the coroner or for the deputy sheriff and all of their if you can vote

Mia Voss

city council, school boards. I you know, thank you so much for saying That Jamison because I preached that a lot, as a big soapbox would read, it was certainly last year. And I think that's where a lot of the onwy and you know, kind of how we got into the predicament that started in 2016 was based on just going to show up and every four years and I'm gonna, I'm not going to do my homework and see what these people stand for. And so I really speak about that a lot of you know, do your homework. And I let's also shout out, we're both here in Colorado. And it is a very fortunate turn from red to a purple to a deep purple. I see deep purple because of Lauren, garbage bail, bowart. And then we've got everything that's gone, you know, we've got, we've got Colorado Springs, although Colorado Springs just elected a black mayor, which is just enormous. And we have our Attorney General Phil Weiser is is a big proponent, we really have a lot of what Leslie Herod a lot of people that are, are wonderful in our community. But we do need to be aware of that. So I say even though it's you know, 2023 start paying attention to what's coming down. And then also looking at House bills, legislative and this is something that's really dangerous is that as of 2023, we have 400 Anti LGBTQ bills introduced, right. So that's just introduced, as opposed to what's gone through 150 of them are specifically

restricting the rights of trans at Mississippi, Iowa, Arkansas, Tennessee, specifically to see as you guys see you, Arizona, of course, you know, Florida, you just mentioned that as well, too. So, you know, being being plugged in and knowing that it's, yeah, it's one vote. But also, when it gets down to a lot of these elections, you may notice to a lot of them, and Lauren Bogart and her opponent, the Democratic opponent, and I'm so sorry, I'm forgetting his name, too, because we've got the menopause brain, and I'll put it in the links, (side note, Adam Frisch) because he's going to be running again to it came down to like 400, and some votes that she won. And that was, you know, counting those votes again, too. So please, please, please don't ever think your vote doesn't count.

Jameson/Ophelia

Yeah, no, your your vote is the one is one of the many powers that are given to you by the US government. So I've definitely use it because right now they are abusing their power. So use yours. I definitely think that my generation doesn't think that their vote matters that or they just don't think to vote. I had a conversation with someone my age, and I was like, oh, yeah, cuz I had turned 18 in September. So I was able to vote in the previous year for the smaller things. And I was like, so did you vote? And they're like, No, I got the thing that I never did. And I was so mad at them that I almost stopped talking to them completely. Because they were like, No, I didn't vote didn't matter. I just turned 18 I'll have hundreds of other votes to do it again. And I'm like, No, this is, this is why there's so many problems right now I am. I try to be so involved in the politics around my community, because that's the one thing that I can do to change them. Recently, I was just involved with you said Lesley Howard. I love Lesley so much. But she invited me to the signing of Senate Bill 296 or 293 it was the you know, yeah, it is 296 and it's the the anti discrimination bill in schools K through 12. And while I've just graduated high school, I was still there because it prevents discrimination of people of any race, any gender, any sexual orientation, any religion, whether it's conscious or subconscious, so there is no more allowances for the Oh, I didn't know I didn't know any better that this person was that or I didn't know anybody that I couldn't say that you are held accountable 100% No matter what. And I think that is such an amazing important strike just in the school system alone in Colorado. And I'm so excited for what we can do more because right now it is terrifying to live. I mean I I live kind of near Parker. And so

Mia Voss

that's a whole different world darlin I used to live in in Aurora so but near Parker and you know, folks is as beautiful as Denver is and as we were just talking about the political climate and I know we do want to talk about your 501 C three draggy time which is wonderful, which is, is doing wonderful things like what you're talking about, you know, there are pockets and it's just like in any any town or any city where you can just instantly feel unsafe and I believe that in Jefferson County, Arapahoe County, and that's what I used to be in it can it can go from this

wonderful welcoming feeling to that as well too. And I just want to point out as well, too, when we're talking about identifiers, you have your beautiful hair and glasses, but you also are sporting a little bit of facial hair. And so I just love that it's just as just juxtaposition of your look, which could be confusing to some people. And it is stunning to me. And this is why we wanted to have this conversation of why this particular thing would be threatening to someone that I'm incredulous about it, but I know you experience it a lot.

Jameson/Ophelia

I do. And I know, I definitely get a lot of conversations as a gender fluid person and a lot of questions about having facial hair. It's a new thing I'm trying out. But it's definitely it's more because I was told by someone who was non binary, and they they were so beautiful and they had facial hair as well. Their name is Addison Ray, they're a queer advocate in LA. And they were talking to me and they were like, facial hair isn't masculine, you can make it feminine, you can make it your own thing, because you were you were, you know, assigned facial hair, I guess at birth. And you can wear it and you can own it. So I've been trying to do that. I mean, I wear makeup with the facial hair. It is it is a juxtaposition. And I like that because it is really this like very fluid part of me. And a lot of people I don't think realize that gender fluidity isn't like this, this magnet on the fridge where you hit boy girl boy girl, and it's one thing and then the other thing, it's it's this fluid thing I'm I'm constantly what the word means people, right? Yeah, I'm very masculine and feminine, a lot of ways. And I think it's weird. If I were to be masculine, like one day, just completely 100% Like, I play sports and all these things and then go into feminine, like, I paint my nails, to have those, like very stereotypical breaks in my personality aren't natural. I think this this kind of blend of every gender is more natural to me.

Mia Voss

Agreed. And I think that's to get on. Another quick soapbox is that is that is colonialism that is patriarchy. This isn't when that when this whole taking over of when we kind of came in and took over from the who are the true original people here from indigenous people there they're embracing of and that's actually in the nature of the gender fluidity. And the male females interchangeable, as well to it in different in everything. It was not this patriarchal system, you know, the, the, the horribleness of perfection as well, too. And as a woman, we experience it to have of body hair. And I know it from getting Shin hairs and things like that, you know, do there's just this, there's this confusion in society, and so much demonization of you've got to look a perfect way. And it's, I think that this fluidity of trying to make that more of a normal thing is just what's absolutely needed.

Jameson/Ophelia

I mean, well, you just perfectly said it's colonialism and the patriarchy. I mean, indigenous people all around the world, accepted and loved their Two Spirit and trans people. And then

the patriarchy comes along, and they see femininity as a weakness, but it is so not honestly, I know, so many sis women and trans women who are so much more powerful and stronger than any sis guy that I've ever met. And it's because their femininity is this power. I mean, women that like biological women they make,

Mia Voss

we create

Jameson/Ophelia

so much more of a power than any guy could do,

Mia Voss

which is why this has been made to be fearful. And I love the irony or the beauty actually, let me say it that way that we're recording on the 13th I think the number 13 in a net has been something that has been completely turned into this horrible thing. And it is because of exactly that of recognizing the power of women in the power of creation. And I feel it even as a woman who's never had children, I still feel the power of of what that was about. And I think that that's something that we as women get pitted against one another as well too is what you know if you had children and then if you did, did you work or did you get married and why didn't you have kids? Oh my god, the questions that that come with that for for women. So I do feel like celebrating more of the feminine the divine feminine, but not as a weakness. Absolutely. Can you talk a little bit about for for yourself and of being trans? This is something I was thinking about? How do you feel going out into the workforce in the workplace because they feel like the more that this is going to get stronger, and why this is so urgent, the more that they they're really going to work against that I Feel a fear that that will be difficult in the workforce for you as well.

Jameson/Ophelia

It is odd. Definitely, especially when I was at school, I went by full he him pronouns, I was I was much more masculine presenting him and he still wore flamboyant clothes. But at that point, I was just this flamboyant gay guy. And kind of transitioning into this kind of more fluid. Everything. For Asana that I have, it has been interesting, I've had a lot of people who are confused, but I've had a lot of people who are willing to learn at the place that I work right now. It's, it's just, you know, your normal summer job. And I pushed my managers so that we can have pronoun pins on our, on our name tags and these things, so that, you know, there's not that much confusion. But I do get people who give me odd looks, I have a pin on my lapel that says, you know, I'm gender fluid. And it's, it's the cute little pin, it's the gender fluid flag, and it says, Are you a boy or girl, and it just says sometimes. And I think that that helps a lot, personally with me, because then I can wear it with pride. And I can, I can, you know, show

this assurance in myself, that a lot of people if they're looking at me, don't see. It, it is it is interesting, kind of, you know, having makeup on and a beard and femininely walking in and saying like, Hi, I'd like this job. And you know, especially on applications and stuff, putting mail or putting, you know, pronouns like that. It is interesting, especially when I was applying for college. Actually, the one university that I did wind up falling in love with, and I'm going to right now, I chose mainly because on the application, it said, gender and it said male, female, trans male, trans female and non binary and then other. Wow. And I fell in love with that, because I was like, okay, they are making strides, they are doing so much more than society is right now. And we need that. And that just to have a little bit of hope that we can change some things pushes me to wear that gender fluid pen and say that I am a proud person.

Mia Voss

And I would hope that you've had some wonderful experiences of just beautiful curiosity that you get to have these conversations, right? If somebody's saying yeah, tell me tell me more about that rather than just turning it against that and you know what, what is scary and why we're getting more talking about this as you even see Supreme Court rulings Jesus Christ. I love that mean like I've had a burrito that's more Supreme, the Supreme Court just that I need to I was like, that is really, really true. And we've known it for a while but the garbage pneus of it all. You know, unfortunately, one of the cases that they just rolled on with this, like imaginary situation of this website, developer Heron in debt and Colorado, there was a situation that didn't even exist and they they're like, Well, what if maybe sort of, I do feel a little bit hopeful now it's kind of you know, what's good for the goose is good for the gander on the other side of like, well, good, then we don't want to serve your your dumbass either. I know that can be a little combative, but it does feel like Alright, let's open up the conversation. And if you want to be that fearful and take it that far, then let's have it go both ways.

Jameson/Ophelia

I actually speaking a bit I saw and memes and stuff. I saw this wonderful photo. Gosh, I think it was one Colorado that posted it and it showed one of the Supreme Court judges and her hair was just all messy and crazy. And it's like when the gays choose not to do your hair and deny you service and it was just so fabulous. Because it is true. I mean, wow. While people can deny us service for being queer now. We can deny you service for being a bigot.

Mia Voss

Yes, yeah, rolling here with that rollin here that attitude. We're gonna do the same thing to I need to find there's an account on Instagram where they've taken all of these just openly horrible politicians and Supreme Court justices and turn them into drag queens.

Jameson/Ophelia

Oh, I love I've seen that with the AI.

Mia Voss

Yes, it is just delightful. And it's it might be called RUpublicans, which I also think is brilliant.

Jameson/Ophelia

Honestly, I was jealous at some of those outfits. I was like, I need that.

Mia Voss

They were delightful. It is called Republicans which Oh again, what a juicy play on words are up up li c a n. S go follow them if you just need a little bit of a giggle on that as well too. We'll talk to me about your drag you taunt 501 C three, you're not profit, not for profit.

Jameson/Ophelia

Definitely. So as I said, I started drag when I was 13. And I knew that there were like other kids out there who felt the same way that I was. And my mom When I were, we're kind of in this in this dilemma, because it's not like you could just sign me up for soccer. There was no, you know, drag for kids at this time, I was one of the only ones. So my mom and I decided to create this 501 C, the nonprofit called Dragutante. And it's a play on words from debut on, which is this like, very like Southern thing. And it's like a ceremony of this, of someone who is, you know, entering womanhood and becoming, you know, more accepted in society. And we thought, Oh, if we put drag into that, and it's the debut of these kids doing drag, then that is it's such a wonderful word. Oh, it's delicious. Oh, it's, that is probably my favorite. I mean, sure, some people you know, mix up their, they call it drag your Dante, Dante and all of these things. Drag you good. I said at nu t a n te, right. And it is just this Oscars of kids drag. We have professional mentors that are kings and queens and non binary performance as well. And they the they teach these kids how to do makeup. And they they tell them kind of the the origins of drag and the beauty of performance. And actually we don't we don't have tips for the kids. We because it's a not for profit, we actually donate flowers. And then these kids are given giant, beautiful bouquet. Days have.

Mia Voss

We lost Jameson for a second. There we go. Back. Yes, we are. You're saying bouquets?

Jameson/Ophelia

Yeah, we give them these these beautiful flower bouquets. And it's just so wonderful to see them so happy and see them. So affirmed in themselves, as well as we completely involve the parents and completely involved with the Guardians. And these, these kids get kind of two sets of parents and once they get the drag family and the the the chosen family that they have. And

these, these mentors and parents, they get to learn how to kind of teach their queer kid and how to accept their queer kid and how to be there for someone who is so out. Now it is saved my life seeing these kids be so authentically themselves. And kind of being able to be that mentor for the next generation. I'm so proud of it. And I can't wait to see what they do when they are, you know, running the world because they will be

Mia Voss

they will and what a great point that you bring up to the support for the parents. Because if you think that kids are feeling alone and isolated, the parents certainly are because there's just so much more out in out judgment from parents, and you see it at school boards, again, why it's so important to look at every single elected official, and then what they support. And let me add this to not only at the election, but after the election, paying attention a whole time during their tenure. What have they been doing because there's some sneaky folks out there. We've had the that you they tell you about rhinos, there's dinos, a Democrat in Name Only. And I'm not saying that that party is perfect either. But I certainly think that paying attention to what they do once they're elected is important. So I love that that their support for our parents, with drag your time as well, too. How many events do you have a year.

Jameson/Ophelia

So we do a one event a year. And it is just this this wonderful, huge Gala. And I think it was 400 to 500 people, we had to get extra chairs, 10 minutes before the show started. Because there were so many people that were there to support these kids. And it's just such a you literally there are tissues on every seat because you will be crying, the happiest of tears. I love

Mia Voss

it. And we'll put information in the show notes on this too. So you can find all that. So real quick, I want you to tell me about your experience at Denver. The Pride Month being in the Pride Parade this year. And I know you had a particular experience that I loved and we'll post a link to that too. And then we'll wrap it up with any of your closing thoughts and any any things you want to tell us of how to how to be better stewards and people out there in the world.

Jameson/Ophelia

So yeah, definitely. But yeah, pride this year, I think it was actually the biggest pride that Denver has ever had. That's so cool. Yeah, but because I'm involved with dragee which is a 501 C three we have a booth at Pride and I also work with one Colorado's youth GSA which was so nice that those booths were so right next to each other because I was worried I was going to have to run across all of Civic Center Park just to you know, get my hours in and work but I was they were right there. But I was asked to be one of the grant marshals with P flag and poof it was P flags. 50th anniversary, and they were they needed a queen and they needed

someone who was youth. And I was like, Oh my gosh, definitely I would love to be involved because PFLAG has done so much for this, you know, community and is really helped sponsor DragonCon as well.

Mia Voss

Can you tell people with PFLAG is an acronym for?

Jameson/Ophelia

Gosh, it's it's parents are

Mia Voss

gay, or lesbian

Jameson/Ophelia

and gay and, and it's, yeah, it's just an PFLAG Denver is here. And I just, I, they, they have helped me so much. So I jumped at the opportunity to be there with them. And then after the parade, there was this young person who walked to the dragon talk booth. And they had talked about how they wanted to start drag. And they were, they were around like eight or 10. And I was just so in awe of them just being like, hey, I want to start driving. And their mother was so kind and so sweet. And I saw a lot of myself and this little kid who was there who's like, I want to start drag, I want to do this. But I still am not sure. And I don't know how to do and I don't know where to start. And I had such a beautiful conversation with them, talking about kind of like what they liked. And I honestly, I wish that even though I started Drag at 13 I wish I had the confidence of this young person, because they were just so sure of themselves. And it's so crazy that people who are so young can be so sure of themselves. And I honestly think that you kind of start off knowing who you are. But then going through society and going through all the expectations that we put on you, you you forget that assurance in yourself. And then it goes back to square one and to see these people who who have not had anybody tell them oh, no, you can't. You shouldn't do that anyone in their family, anyone that they look up, say, no, maybe don't try drag just do theater or just do this. Having someone that's like, what do you want to do? What do you want to and it's just so beautiful. And I had this wonderful conversation with them. And I posted it on my Instagram story just because I wanted to share this kid with the world because they're so cool. Right? Hopefully they're gonna do Dragon Con next year and I get to know more about them and meet them more.

Mia Voss

Oh, gosh, I hope so too. And I do want to point out that the name Ophelia I love that you took that from Shakespeare as a as a powerful young woman so I don't think I didn't catch that

Jameson/Ophelia

Everyone asked me like where's Ophelia peaches come from? And because I'm like a big FASB and I'm a big theater nerd. The saddest thing is though I did a lot of drag queens will kind of agree with this and realize that they've done this to you a lot of times you do the name of your street and then your very first dog for your drag name. My street name was Ontario at the time and I didn't want to be Ontario peaches because peaches was my very first Corgi. So I chose someone from Shakespeare who was a strong woman and who was also a young person. And I just I fell in love with Ophelia peaches. It's such a fun name.

Mia Voss

It's just perfect. I love that you're right onto our onto here. It's I mean, it has the same kind of cadence to it, but not the same ring. And now though the wonderful backstory

Jameson/Ophelia

It does not have the spice that Ophelia peaches have

Mia Voss

It does not have the zhuzh. All right, any closing thoughts for us, and then tell us where we can find you.

Jameson/Ophelia

I think one of the most important closing thoughts for for anyone, and this is kind of something that I've tried to live by. And then I've definitely started actually talking in the mirror and saying this to me, when I'm feeling down is nobody determines your worth. You're the only one who can determine your worth. And unless they are paying your bills, paying for your college or doing anything that is actively supporting you, they don't matter in your life. You are the only person who can say that you have value and that you are valid and who you are. So focus on your own thoughts and focus on your own affirmations. And if you look in the mirror, and you're you know you see that bit be that person that you see

Mia Voss

100% That bit. I'm going to do that too. I like that I think that's for everyone specifically though I think that is wonderful advice too. And then where can we find you?

Jameson/Ophelia

You can find me on all of the social medias under OpheliaPeaches, all one word, Instagram, Facebook, I got threads now I'm having so much fun with that. Good weather LinkedIn. I have a website it's affiliate peaches.com. I actually also just got affiliate peaches dot gay. If you want

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to try that out and see if it works. I'd love to hear of it. I definitely I definitely well, you can find me anywhere under Ophelia. Peaches.

Mia Voss

Wonderful, excellent Branding. By the way, I love to hear that the guy that you got all the names that you wanted. So, thank you for joining us. Thank you for sharing your experience with us and what you're all about.

Jameson/Ophelia

Thank you so much for having me. Absolutely.

Hey, thanks for tuning in. You can check out the show notes and guests links at ShitWeDontTalkAboutPodcast.com If you liked this episode, please subscribe and give it a like or leave a review, especially if it's a good one. See you next time. Bye