

Polare Edition 13

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Editorial

by Jasper Laybutt

Welcome to issue thirteen of *Polare*. I'm well and truly settling into my new role, and may I say thank you to all those readers who have offered their support through positive feedback on my first edition.

This issue continues the format set in number twelve, and there are still more changes to come. We wish to expand our advertising base, so if you have a transgender friendly business, or just want to attract tranny trade, then contact me regarding some special offers available.

Of course, the big news is that both the N.S.W. and W.A. Transgender Bills have recently come of age. *Polare* provides direct information on each Bill, and in particular, we have provided transcripts of the N.S.W. Transgender Bill 1996, which is soon to be gazetted.

The Gender Centre's successful "Surgery Information Session" with Dr. Haertsch has naturally attracted some comment, some of which we've published, and no doubt there will be a variety of viewpoints. Feedback so far though is that those present would welcome more sessions of this nature.

As our cover for this issue implies, there are many viewpoints on issues which may, or may not, be yours or our "cup of tea". Yet may I encourage you to have a cuppa and settle-in to read this edition, which I hope you'll enjoy.

Manager's Report

by Bill Robertson

Welcome to the new Management Committee which is as follows:

- » **Chair:** Roberta Perkins
- » **Vice Chair:** Rochelle Evans
- » **Secretary:** Nadine Stranzen
- » **Assistant Secretary:** Sharon Stolzenberg
- » **Treasurer:** Kimberleigh Kovan
- » **Ordinary Member:** Jean Noble
- » **Ordinary Member:** Max Zebra-Thyone

News in Brief

from the pages of *Polare* Number Thirteen

New Editor for F.T.M.

United States: American female-to-male network and newsletter F.T.M. International, has had a change of

Feature Articles



China's leading dancer, Jin Xing

A Dancer's Quest for True Self

China's leading dancer, Jin Xing had dreamed of becoming a girl since childhood. After years of gruelling training, Jin earned a scholarship to study in the U.S. and the chance to fulfil her inner-most dreams.

Intuition

For intuition to flourish, we need an atmosphere of meditation, contemplation or spending moments alone. We need to develop an awareness of our mental control, physical and emotional tensions.

Famous Trannies

Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries gender crossing became better known and more prominent in western society. This article takes a look at the lives of famous trannies including Dr. James Barry, Jenny de Savalette de Lange, and Margrith Buginger.

Lower Surgery

A Toby Meltzer patient, David Schreier answers some of the lower surgery concerns of others including how they did the metoidioplasty, phalloplasty and facilities at Oregon Health Sciences University.

European Progress

On 14th December a Press for Change (U.S.), activist made legal history by taking her case for unfair dismissal all the way to the European Court of Justice ... and achieved a judgement in her favour.

Learning from the Curse

Stephanie feels she was never a man and physically, of course, not a woman either. She has always belonged between the sexes. No high heels, no wig, no padding, no make-up, this is her story

The Session + Questions = My Response

editorship. This success story of tranny publishing was originally headed by the late Lou Sullivan. Jamison Green has both edited, administered and coordinated *F.T.M.* for some years and has now taken a deserved break from the concentrated efforts the support network requires. The current issue of *F.T.M.* (Issue 34, May 1996), ushers in its new editor, Marcus de Maria Arana, whom we are sure will continue the fine work of his predecessors. Marcus is also actively involved with the organisation, Community United Against Violence, based in San Francisco. The agency is akin to Sydney's Anti-Violence Project.

Max gives his response to the surgery talk by Dr. Haertsch who as Max explains, thinks that for tranny boys, transplants using micro-surgery could very well eventually be a reality.

Sentencing Given in Significant Transgender Case

Sean O'Neill faced eleven felony counts including criminal impersonation and child sexual assault. His only crime was to be an F.T.M. having consensual sex with teenage girls, when he was only seventeen.

Trannies in Heart Study

Sydney, Australia: 25 trannies will take part in a study at Sydney University to assess the affects of female and male sex hormones on the onset of heart disease. The study, funded by the National Heart Foundation will attempt to determine whether oestrogen protects against heart disease and whether testosterone advances it. Men have been shown to be at the highest risk of heart disease, as are pre-menopausal women. This has led some researchers to believe oestrogen acts as a preventative agent.

W.A. Protection Bill for Transgenders

Perth, Australia: The Western Australian Government announced anti-discrimination legislation to protect people who have had gender reassignment. State Attorney-General Peter Foss said the Gender Reassignment Bill would be introduced later this year. It will establish a Gender Reassignment Board with the authority to alter birth certificates and other register listings.

Crime Victim Discrimination

New York, U.S.A.: A gay and lesbian group has charged that racism and homophobia are behind the denial of burial reimbursement for an African-American transsexual and sex-worker who was killed during a robbery in Harlem last year. A request from Moses Preston Waller's grandmother for reimbursement of burial expenses was denied by the New York State Crime Victim's Board which said Waller's behaviour "contributed to the infliction of his injury". The Board did reimburse, however, the families of the female sex-workers murdered by serial killer Joel Rifkin.

Transylvania Transsexual

Bucharest, Romania: There are transsexuals in Transylvania. Following a hearing last year, nineteen year-old Sorin Ratfu became Romania's first transsexual. The court said that unless Ratfu received the surgery, he would probably kill or mutilate himself. Eight days after the ruling, Sorin went into the operating room in Bucharest and emerged as Sorina. The only thing different was that the operation was televised on state television. Viewers were treated to close-ups of the severed genitalia and other gory details of the eight hour operation.

Rights Withheld

Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A.: A federal appeals court has rejected an inmates demand to dress as a woman and dismissed his demand for counselling. Merlin Long, 62, is serving a life-sentence for first-degree murder, and claims that ever since prison officials took away his women's clothing and make-up in 1981, they have ignored his need to be counselled for "gender dysphoria". A federal court ruling which rejected his demand was last month upheld by the appellate court.

Priest now a Woman

Vatican City: Parisian Priest Philip Darlet gave the Vatican an unusual problem over the issue of women clergy when he changed gender to become a woman. Now called Philippe, the Vatican can't defrock her unless she marries.

Tough Swedish Examination

Umeå, Sweden: According to a researcher at Umeå University, seven out of ten sex-change operations performed in Sweden are successful when measured by the patient's satisfaction and self-esteem. Owe Bodlund attributes this high success rate to the tough examination process which is required before a sex-change can be approved. It takes between five and ten years for a person to fully complete the change. Of the approximately 50 patients who apply for sex reassignment each year, only ten to fifteen are approved. A total of 250 operations have been performed in Sweden and interestingly they are evenly split between *F.T.M.* and *M.T.F.*

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under the S.A.A.P. program and supported by the N.S.W. Health Department through the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch. Polare provides a forum for discussion and debate on gender issues. Unsolicited contributions are welcome, the editor reserves the right to edit such contributions without notification. Any submission which appears in Polare may be published on our internet site. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, The Gender Centre Inc., the Department of Family & Community Services or the N.S.W. Department of Health.

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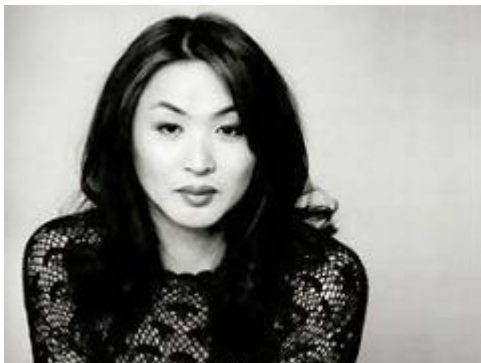
A Dancer's Quest for True Self

Jin Xing, China's Leading Dancer, Pushing the Limits

by Mia Turner, Time Magazine

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1995 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

Editor: Please note, the inappropriate references to Jin in the male gender throughout this article is of the writers choice and does not reflect the Gender Centre's view.



Jin Xing - When [her] first Beijing performances, profound, complex and imbued with homosexual themes, received a warm reception, Jin finally felt ready to tell [her] family about [her] decision

In a country where individual choice is still a privilege, China's leading dancer, Jin Xing, continually tests the limits. At age nine, Jin begged [her] parents, an army officer and an interpreter, for permission to join the Shenyang Military Song and Dance troupe in north-eastern Liaoning province. When they refused, [s]he went on a hunger strike; after two days they relented. Years of gruelling training took Jin to the top of China's ballet world and earned [her] a government scholarship to study in the U.S. the only Chinese dancer ever to do so.

As the only male heir on [her] father's side of the family, [s]he was shocked to find [her parents] so supportive and so unsurprised.

Despite [her] success, Jin always kept secret something [s]he feared, made [her] too different. "Even as a child I dreamed of becoming a girl", [s]he says. Now twenty-eight, China's Nureyev has decided to undergo a sex change operation that will make [her] wish come true.


Jin's latest choice challenges the sexual and cultural mores of conservative Chinese society. As an adolescent, [s]he was attracted to men, but because homosexuality is taboo, [s]he instead put all [her] energy into [her] art. [Her] 1988 - ninety-three day stay abroad was a turning point. While honing [her] dance craft, [s]he also explored [her] sexuality. "After a year, I realised I didn't fit into the gay community", [s]he says. "I discovered I (was attracted to) men who like women."

Jin first met transsexuals while teaching modern dance in Europe and recognised what [s]he now says is the truth of [her] own sexual identity. By the time [s]he returned to China in 1993, [s]he had made up [her] mind to become a woman. When [her] first Beijing performances, profound, complex and imbued with homosexual themes, received a warm reception, Jin finally felt ready to tell [her] family about [her] decision. As the only male heir on [her] father's side of the family, [s]he was shocked to find them so supportive and so unsurprised.

Likewise, the government has displayed unprecedented tolerance for [her] high profile transformation. Ministry of Culture officials recently visited [her] in the hospital to discuss future performances. "They think I'm a crazy artist, but they respect my work," [s]he says. "By the time they left, they were calling me Miss Jin." A state television crew is even making a documentary. Jin hopes this publicity will help others grappling with uncertain sexual identities. Chinese hospitals have reportedly turned down most of the three thousand requests for sex change operations they received in the past six years. "As one person, I cannot change society," [s]he muses. "But I want people to know that nothing in life needs to be immutable. There is always a 'maybe'."

Jin has undergone the first two stages of the procedure, breast implants and facial hair removal, and this week will have the final eight-hour operation. [She] admits to being nervous but says, "The more I am forced to convince others, the more I convince myself that I am doing the right thing".

Jin Xing

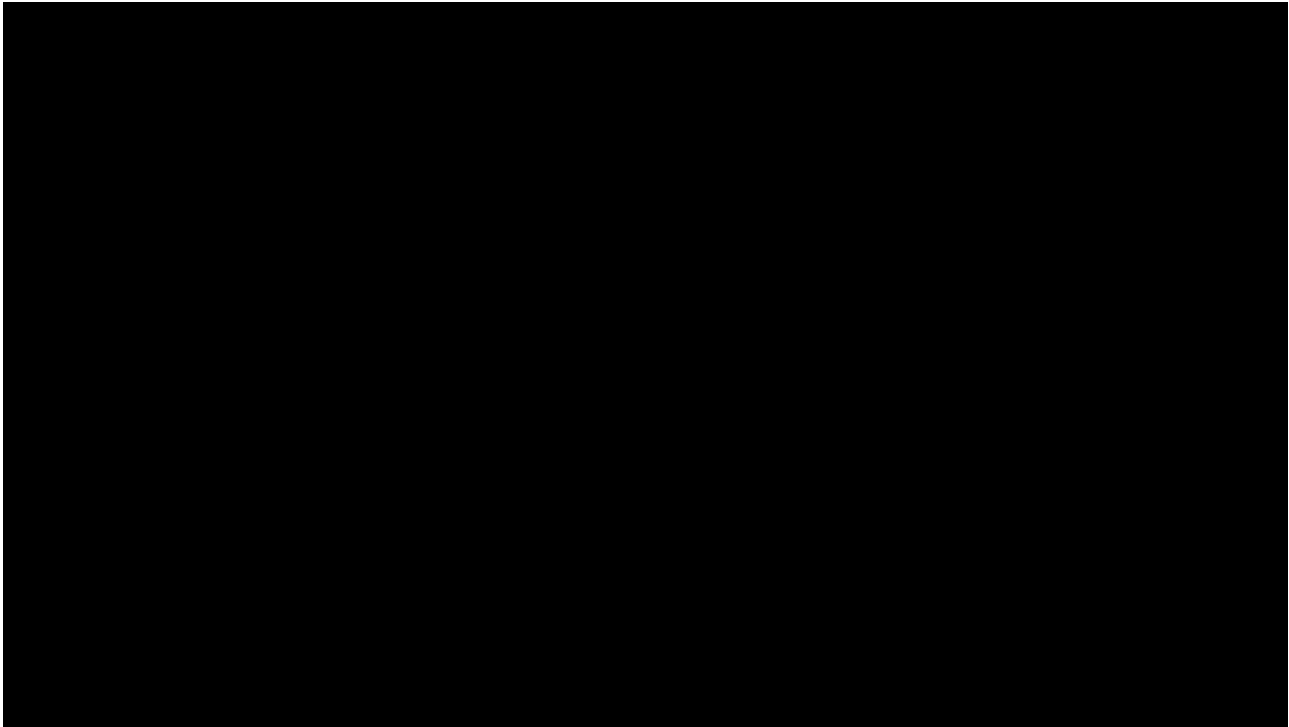
From Jin Xing's website:  Jin Xing (directly translated: golden star) started her remarkable life journey 1967 in Shenyang in Liaoning province. She was born to parents from the country's Korean minority at a time when China was caught in the throes of the Cultural Revolution. At the age of nine, she managed to get herself enrolled in the famous military dance ensemble in Shenyang, whose teacher belonged to the top of classic ballet in China. Since then Jin Xing's history reads like row after row of superlatives.

At the age of seventeen she received the Best Dancer of China Award. With nineteen she became the first



Chinese dancer to win a grant in New York from the Asian Cultural Council of America and the American Dance Festival. Amongst others she studied with Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Jose Limon. In 1991 she won the "Best Choreographer Award" of the American Dance Festival for her creation *Half Dream*. Jin Xing then decided to move to Europe. There followed educational visits and appearances with various ensembles in Rome and Brussels. In 1993 after a total of six years in the western world Jin Xing returned to China where she became teacher for the National Choreography and Modern Dance Training workshops commissioned by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. In 1994 she resigned as Colonel from the Chinese military dance company.

[Read more about Jin Xing at her website](#) 



This video is courtesy [H.D. Net World Report](#) and You Tube



Shanghai Tango: A Memoir
Author: Jin Xing
Publisher: Atlantic Books (2007)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 1843546329

[From Amazon Books](#)  This unusual memoir describes how China's foremost male ballet dancer (and colonel in the People's Army) underwent China's first sex-change operation and became the Shanghai Ballet's prima ballerina. This book is suitable for fans of ballet and modern dance, anyone interested in gender issues, and in Chinese culture and customs. Jin Xing is a former prima ballerina, one of the brightest stars of the Shanghai Ballet. But her journey to international fame has

been fraught with difficulty because Jin Xing was in fact born a man. From an early age she was intensely uncomfortable with her gender. Unable to understand or put words to her feelings, she immersed herself in ballet dancing, her first love. Aged nine, she joined the People's Liberation Army, where she received both dance and military training and attained the rank of colonel. The curtains opened on a new act in her life when, at the age of nineteen, she received a scholarship to study dance in New York. It was there that she discovered for the first time that it was possible to change sex. In an instant, what had been the province of dreams became a real opportunity. She took the courageous decision to return to China to face the authorities, quit the army, and confront the world with her decision to become a woman. As dramatic, graceful and deeply felt as a pas de deux, *Shanghai Tango* is a deeply personal and inspiring account of growing up in a body that feels alien and of braving pioneering surgery in communist China.

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Intuition

Health to Healing, Dependency to Autonomy

by Linda Darling

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Without intuition I believe we live a "half-life", unable to relate harmoniously to ourselves, others or the earth.

What is intuition? It is often only experienced in flashes. These can be a realisation, perhaps while looking at a painting, a cloud form or into the heart of a fire. It can also come through a dream, a fantasy, boring everyday activity when the mind's attention begins to wander. It may come in the form of a sudden insight into a person or situation, in a solution to a problem, an inspiration from a poem or a mystical experience.

... a feeling experienced by many transys I've met is one of helplessness, powerlessness, a state of waiting to be told what to do.

In a situation which seemed complex, a simple "truth" emerges. Something that was not explained verbally is understood. Clear, immediate information, uncoloured by emotion, often with no obvious means to arrive at this knowing. When considered rationally this information may initially appear illogical or absurd. It is a connection with the unconscious. A kind of knowing.

When a hostile world around us downplays creativity, imagination, fantasy and the possibility of being different to the "faith" it embodies, how then can we create ourselves?

The connection of apparently unconnected phenomena and the knowing they give rise to, have no place or value in the linear rational world. Daydreaming, flashes of "understanding", creativity are seen as distractions, not real. They are seen just as obstacles in the way of earning a living and family life.

I believe a feeling experienced by many transys I've met is one of helplessness, powerlessness, a state of waiting to be told what to do. Not to be, not to hear, read, show, hide, pretend, enjoy, think and feel. We respond to what is expected. Deep down however there is a sense of anger and frustration. This is one way of being cancelled, the potential other stillborn.

There is a feeling of unreality that comes from floating free of the familiar. Who are we anyway? No one encourages us to find out. The underlying message from society is "remain locked in our definitions of reality, you don't have the power to change". To know what we need for ourselves, to become who we truly are, to find a place in the world, the power to live our own lives, seems denied to us.

Intuition is a key to who we are; what we need, how to integrate the rational. For intuition to flourish, there needs to be an atmosphere where meditation, contemplation or spending quiet moments alone can take place. There is a need to encourage non-verbal, (poetry excepted) forms of expression. Expression such as music, dance, arts and crafts - opportunities for imagination and visualisation. We need to develop awareness of our mental control and our physical and emotional tensions, find the best ways for us of relaxing there. We need to learn to listen, to tune in to our own inner voice, to allow ourselves to experience deeper levels of being, to follow our own course, to recognise and then to trust intuition.

Without intuition I believe we live a "half-life", unable to relate harmoniously to ourselves, others or the earth. I can't conceive a true and successful therapist who has not developed and used intuition. I can't think of a better space to begin this process than in a tranny community/cultural/healing centre, where individuals could move from "health" to healing, from dependency to autonomy.

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Famous Trannies

Sexology and Trannies in the Early Twentieth Century and then the Sex Change

by Roberta Perkins

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Dr. James Barry

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, gender crossing became better known and more prominent in western society. To Victorian society it was an embarrassment, but to the post 'sexual revolution' generation it has become increasingly fascinating and even something to symbolically emulate. Then in the last half of the present century came the medical phenomenon commonly called the 'sex change'.

... there were many other females who lived their lives as men without the slightest suspicion in most people's minds ...

Perhaps the best known nineteenth century tranny is Dr. James Barry, who was born a female in 1795. Much of James' early life remains a mystery, so skilful did he disguise his biological sex that we don't even know what his given female name was. The earliest record of any certainty that we have of him was his graduation from the Edinburgh Medical College in 1812, at a time when women were forbidden in the medical profession. A year later he joined the British army as a medical officer. After a few years in the home guard, James was promoted to Staff Surgeon in 1819 and sent to the Cape of Good Hope as medical advisor to the Governor. A few more years later he was serving on St. Helena and Malta, and was elevated to Surgeon Major in 1827. After that his rise was meteoric in the

army medical corps, and he served in the West Indies as chief medical officer. James was prickly in temperament and quick to lose his temper. People said of him that he was guarded and secretive. His slight frame, small limbs, short height and smooth face aroused the suspicion of some of his colleagues, arousing the curiosity of outsiders, one of whom remarked resembled a woman, with small limbs in good proportion. His voice was shrill and squeaky and quite unlike the voice of a man, The impression left after speaking with him was that he laboured under some sexual malformation. Whatever people thought of him, there is no doubt that he was admired for his medical skills. In 1851 he became Deputy Inspector-General and in this capacity served in the Crimean War in charge of the medical corps. It is interesting to speculate on the type of professional relationship Dr. Barry and Florence Nightingale, as his nurse in charge, might have had throughout the war. After the war James reached the top in his profession by becoming the Inspector-General of Hospitals in 1858. He spent his remaining years in London, and died at home in 1865 A post-mortem revealed that James Barry was indeed of the female sex, the first time this was publicly confirmed.

Whilst a cloud of doubt surrounded James Barry's sex for much of his life, there were many other females who lived their lives as men without the slightest suspicion in most people's minds, including Charley Wilson, alias Catherine Coombes, a painter and decorator by trade for forty-two years, John Coulter, who amazingly was married to a woman for twenty-nine years without her being aware he was a female, Charles Durkee Parkhurst, a stagecoach driver in the American west, and 'Mountain' Charley, a Rocky Mountain trapper of many years. The tradition of females entering the military as men continued into the nineteenth century. Nadezhda Durova was a peasant girl who married and had a son before running away dressed as a boy to join the Russian Army in 1805. As Aleksandr Aleksandrov he saw action in 1807 and took a part in the campaign against Napoleon in 1812. He left the army four years later and in 1836 began working on his manuscript with writer Aleksandr Pushkin, who persuaded him to revert to a female sex role, in which state she remained until her death in 1866. Another female soldier was Loreta Janeta Velazquez, who joined the Confederate Army during the American Civil War disguised as a man purportedly to find her husband. In the process Loreta ended up in a number of battles and was wounded twice.

Jenny de Savalette de Lange lived as a woman most of her life and even had a birth certificate designating her a female. She became engaged to marry a cavalry officer, but managed to avoid actually marrying, and she had a number of other suitors, all of whom she rejected. One of her discarded lovers had some unkind words to say of her: "(She was) tall, thin and lopsided, and she leaned on an umbrella. Her features were hard; her look stern and her voice shrill and cracked. She took snuff frequently and had such a masculine appearance that people who passed in the street used to say how much she resembled a man." But Jenny obviously had some influence in high places because Napoleon granted her a pension in 1812 and even rooms in the palace of Versailles. Although this pension ceased with the fall of the Empire in 1822 she was paid the salary of a post-mistresses, even though she never actually took up a position in the mail service. Her pension and the Versailles chambers were returned to her in 1825, but in 1853 she lost her rooms at Versailles when the palace was turned into a museum. Five years later Jenny died in a little apartment in Paris, and upon examination her body was found to be that of a male, but no-one knew her original name nor identity.

Sexology and Trannies in the Early Twentieth Century

Around the turn of the century the new science of psychology introduced some new concepts on gender crossing and cross-dressing. But the first attempts at scientifically investigating sexual variations were made by a German physician, Carl Westphal, who wrote the earliest scientific publication on cross-dressing in 1869. Richard von Krafft-Ebing is the foremost sexologist whose milestone book *Psychopathia Sexualis*, published in 1887, established the concept of sexual perversion, which included everything apart from heterosexual activity for the purpose of procreation. Sigmund Freud did not investigate cross-dressing as a subject of psychoanalysis, although he considered it a form of fetishism and an outcome of penis envy in females or castration anxiety in males. Iwan Bloch demonstrated the universality of cross-dressing. But it was Magnus Hirschfeld who first described cross-dressing as a different phenomenon to homosexuality and fetishism. Some say his own homosexual orientation gave him an insight into the area referred to as sexual deviancy in his day than any other contemporary scientist. In his major work on the subject in 1910 he tried to view cross-dressing as a variation on a sexual theme, rather than as a perversion, and in seventeen cases closely examined by him twelve were heterosexual, two bisexual, two autosexual and one homosexual. Hirschfeld called the phenomenon transvestism (literally: cross-dressing). Another prominent sexologist of the early twentieth century is Havelock Ellis, who preferred the term eonism (after the Chevalier d'Eon) to describe cross-dressing. But, more importantly was his recognition that more extreme forms of cross-dressing, that is where someone actually wants to be of the opposite sex and is not just satisfied with donning the clothes of the opposite sex, may be a separate phenomenon.



Maria Bochkareva, continued fighting in World War One despite being discovered as female

With or without scientific terminology to describe their behaviour females and males continued the long tradition of gender crossing in western society into the twentieth century. Female soldiers passing as men fought alongside their male comrades in World War I and were occasionally discovered, such as Maria Bochkareva, who fought as a man in the Russian Army in the war and was allowed to continue in the trenches even after she was found to be a female. Later she would lead the Petrograd Women's Battalion of Death in the Russian Revolution in 1917 in support of the White Russians against the Bolsheviks. Of all the female-to-male trannies in the pre-'sex change' period Billy Tipton, who became a prominent jazz musician with his own trio in the 1930s and was married with two adopted sons who called him 'father', is probably the most successful. None of his close musical colleagues suspected his biological sex, and anyone who suggested he was effeminate looking was challenged by Tipton to fisticuffs.

There were some very successful male-to-female trannies in the pre-'sex change' era too, like Adele Best, who lived as a woman for fifty-four years without detection, which included three husbands who were none the wiser either. Georgia Black also married, and was widowed twice, and had an adopted son who knew her only as his mother. One of Iwan Bloch's cases, Frederica, provides a clue to how these trannies might have kept their biological sex a secret from their husbands; she managed to have many lovers who never doubted she was a woman by using her anus as a vagina. In 1923 a pretty young woman was detained by Chicago police as a murder suspect after she was identified at the scene of the crime. But as she sat in her cell in her nightgown and kimono the police noticed the young woman sprouting a stubble beneath her make-up. The woman turned out to be a noted gangster who frequently dressed as a woman. In Court she appeared in make-up, satin slacks and silken top, but managed to achieve an acquittal because the witness who positively identified her said her eyes were blue, whereas, in fact, they were grey. Another example of tranny variance was the tragic case of a Parisian public servant found hanged in his room attired in lingerie, hosiery and make-up in 1926. On investigation police found that this quiet unassuming little man was none other than the notorious Madame Cartier, who frequented the nightlife of Montmartre and was well-known for dancing and dining the evening away and, like Cinderella, disappearing into the night at midnight. Next morning the little public servant would make his way back to his office in the morning, that is, until that fateful morning of his suicide. The authorities wrote the case off as just one more deranged homosexual killing himself out of shame.

Came the 'Sex-Change'



Danish Trans Woman, Lili Elbe, one of the first identifiable

For many trannies in the past their greatest desire was to change their genitals to the shape of their desired sex. That desire would become reality for thousands following the so-called sex reassignment surgery of the mid twentieth century, during what I have referred to as the 'sex change' period. But this period began at the end of more than half a century of experimenting. Perhaps the earliest attempt at reconstructing genitals to shape them like the opposite sex took place in 1882 when a German woman Sophia Hedwig's genitalia was operated on to try and give them a semblance of a male's. Although it was not very successful, Sophia's sex was changed, officially and she became Herman Karl for the rest of his life. In 1917 another woman, Alberta Hart, herself a physician, underwent a hysterectomy and thereafter lived as a man known as Alan. The next most important case occurred in 1931 when Margrith Businger was granted the full status of female by a Swiss Canton court following a castration operation. Two years later Danish artist Einar Wagener underwent an operation in Berlin by surgeon Francis Abraham, who removed both his testes and penis, and he became Lili Elbe when given the official status of female in Denmark. Poor Lili died only six months later while waiting for vaginoplasty (a constructed vagina). During the war a repulsive experiment was carried out by a Nazi surgeon who reshaped the genitals of a male Jewish prisoner who had no intention of changing his gender. About the same time Arnold-Leon Leber was castrated in Switzerland, but an attempt at vaginoplasty was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, he was legally proclaimed a


recipients of male-to-female
sex reassignment surgery in
1932

female by a Swiss court and she took the name of Arlene-Irene. By this time the issue of 'sex change' was becoming much discussed in the medical journals and one writer Dr. David Cauldwell coined the term by which people came to know those who sought 'sex change' surgery when he spoke about 'psychopathia trans-sexualis' in a 1949 edition of

Sexology.

In the same year of Cauldwell's article a female called Laura Dillon completed the first 'sex change' that involved a reconstructed phallus. She had undergone a mastectomy and a phalloplasty, but not a hysterectomy nor oophorectomy (removal of the ovaries). Laura became Michael, entered medical college and served as a ship's doctor before disappearing into oblivion as a Buddhist monk in India, where he eventually died. In 1951 an ex-R.A.F. pilot during the war and more recently a racing car driver, Robert Cowell, was operated on but was not given a vaginoplasty. Nevertheless he changed his identity and became known as Roberta for the rest of her life. The most celebrated 'sex-change' was that of Christine Jorgensen, a one-time U.S. soldier called George, who was operated on by the Danish surgeon Christian Hamburger in 1953. Jorgensen had an orchidectomy (removal of testes) and penectomy (removal of penis), but a reconstructed vagina was not completed. However, she was the first trans woman to undergo extensive oestrogen therapy, and her case became the model on which all subsequent 'sex change' treatments were based. Following the immense publicity of the Jorgensen case, Dr. Hamburger received 465 written requests for surgery from women and men all over the world. For the first time society was beginning to grasp the extent of the transgender phenomenon. The focus moved from Europe's experimental surgery to the United States and 'sex-change' as an acceptable practice in medicine. Endocrinologist Harry Benjamin took it up as a major cause with his well-known statement of "if the mind cannot be changed to suit the body, then let the body be changed to suit the mind." He was granted funds by the Erikson Educational Foundation to pursue research into transsexualism further and eventually established the guidelines upon which modern day 'sex changes' take place. The first operation in the U.S.A. was carried out on a female-to-male, who had a mastectomy and oophorectomy in 1960, but the first fully successful conversion took place with a negro male-to-female tranny in 1965. Since then medical institutions in many parts of the world have carried out 'sex change' operations as a normal part of their medical and health services. And, as they say, the rest is now history!

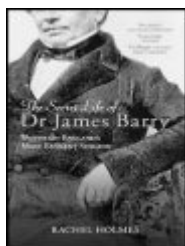
James Barry

From Wikipedia:  James Miranda Stuart Barry (1789 – 1865), was a military surgeon in the British Army. After graduating from the University of Edinburgh Medical School, Barry served in India and Cape Town, South Africa. By the end of his career, he had risen to the rank of Inspector General in charge of military hospitals. In his travels he not only improved conditions for wounded soldiers, but also the conditions of the native inhabitants. Among his accomplishments was the first caesarean section in Africa by a British surgeon in which both the mother and child survived the operation.




Although Barry lived his adult life as a man, it is believed that at birth he was identified or assigned as female and named Margaret Ann Bulkley, raised as a girl, and that he chose to live as a man so that he might be accepted as a university student and able to pursue a career as a surgeon. Thus Barry would be the first British woman to become a qualified medical doctor.

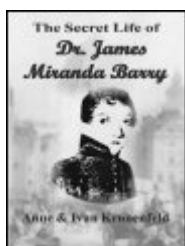
James Barry retired in 1864 — reputedly against his wishes — and returned to England. He died from dysentery on 25 July 1865. Sophia Bishop, the charwoman who took care of the body, discovered his female anatomy and revealed this information after the funeral. The situation came to light after an exchange of letters between George Graham of the General Register Office, and Major D.R. McKinnon, Barry's doctor and the person who had issued the death certificate on which Barry was identified as male.




The Secret Life of Dr. James Barry: Victorian England's Most Eminent Surgeon
Author: Rachel Holmes
Publisher: Tempus (2007)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0752441399

From Amazon Books:  James Barry was an innovative medical pioneer, radical humanitarian, and flamboyant person who traversed the British Empire during the nineteenth century. He campaigned tirelessly for the humanitarian rights of the patient. On three continents, Barry implemented new methods of hygiene, sanitation, quarantine, diet, and effective treatment of some of the most virulent diseases known to the age. His medical reforms saved the lives of thousands of people. But

Barry was not what he seemed. He courted controversy throughout his life - sexual scandal, a fiery temper, elaborate dress, and rampant vegetarianism set him apart from his peers. Yet all the while he concealed a secret that went right to the heart of his identity. Rachel Holmes pursues Barry's tumultuous adventures across the globe, bringing to life through eloquent storytelling this extraordinary Victorian who caused outrage wherever he went, yet through it all defiantly lived a life that otherwise would have been denied.







The Secret Life of Dr. James Miranda Barry
Author: Anne Kronenfeld, Ivan Kronenfeld
Publisher: Write Words Inc. (2005)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-1594310904


From Amazon Books:  In 1814, a woman of unknown origins graduated from Edinburgh Medical School disguised as a man. Dr. James Miranda Barry has the distinction of being the first woman doctor in the Western world. He then served in the British Military disguised as a male surgeon for forty-five years. The scandal of his elaborate deception did not surface until his death. Based on true facts, *The Secret Life of Dr. James Miranda Barry* takes us from The Reign of Terror in Paris to

Scotland, South Africa, and England in this insightful portrait of someone with an indomitable spirit.

Further Information

[Wikipedia: James Barry](#) 
[The Mysterious Dr. James Barry](#) 
[Dr James Barry – a most remarkable man](#) 
[The Secret History Project: James Barry](#) 

Charles Parkhurst

From Wikipedia:  Charley Parkhurst, born Mary Parkhurst in 1812 in Vermont, U.S.A., was raised along with his sister in a New Hampshire orphanage following his mother's death in 1812. Upon leaving the orphanage he adopted the name Charley Darkey Parkhurst, dressed and lived as a male and worked as a stable hand first in Massachusetts and then in Rhode Island.




In about 1849, Charley moved to California and took employment for the California Stage Company. Shortly after arriving, he lost the use of one eye after a kick from a horse earning him the nickname "One-Eyed Charley". He also gained the reputation as one of the finest stage coach drivers on the west coast.

Parkhurst retired from driving some years later and after trying lumbering, cattle ranching, and raising chickens, he moved into a small cabin near Watsonville, California. He died there on December 18, 1879, due to tongue cancer.

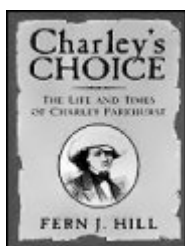
When Parkhurst died in 1879, neighbours came to the cabin to lay out the body for burial and discovered that Parkhurst's body looked unexpectedly female. Rheumatism and cancer of the tongue were listed as causes of death. The examining doctor established that Parkhurst had given birth. A trunk in the house contained a baby's dress.




The Whip
Author: Karen Kondazian
Publisher: Infinity Publishing (2008)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0741446435

From Amazon Books:  Winner of the "Fiction: Historical" category of The 2012 U.S.A. Best Book Awards. *The Whip* is inspired by the true story of a woman, Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst (1812-1879) who lived most of her extraordinary life as a man. As a young woman in Rhode Island, she fell in love with a runaway slave and had his child. The destruction of her family drove her west to California, dressed as a man, to track the killer. Charley became a renowned stagecoach driver for

Wells Fargo. She killed a famous outlaw, had a secret love affair, and lived with a housekeeper who, unaware of her true sex, fell in love with her. Charley was the first woman to vote in America (as a man). Her grave lies in Watsonville, California.



Charley's Choice: The Life and Times of Charley Parkhurst
Author: Fern J. Hill
Publisher: Hansen Publishing Group (2012)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-1601823021


From Amazon Books:  Charley Parkhurst ran away from an orphanage, worked hard learning horse craft, and, over the ensuing years, earned a hallmark reputation driving a six-up in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Georgia, and California during the gold rush era. When death overtook Charley many long-time friends and acquaintances were astounded to learn the tough old stage-driver was a well-endowed woman who had given birth at some point in her life. A member of

the all male Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Charley was the first woman to vote in California during the 1868 federal election, fifty-three years before women won the right to vote.

Further Information

[Trans* Success: Charles Durkee Parkhurst](#) 
[Wikipedia: Charley Parkhurst](#) 
[The Strange Life and Times of Charley Parkhurst](#) 

Nadezhda Durova / Aleksandr Aleksandrov

From Wikipedia:  Nadezhda Durova was born in an army camp in Kiev, the daughter of a Russian major. Her father placed her in the care of his soldiers after an incident that nearly killed her in infancy when her abusive mother threw her out of the window of a moving carriage. As a small child, Durova learned all the standard marching commands and her favourite toy was an unloaded gun. After her father retired from service, she continued playing with broken sabres and frightened her family by secretly taming a stallion that they considered unbreakable. In 1801, she married a Sarapul judge V.S. Chernov and gave birth to a son in 1803. In 1807, at the age of twenty-four she disguised herself as a boy, deserted her son and husband, and bringing her horse Alkid, enlisted in a Polish uhlan regiment under the alias



"Alexander Sokolov".

She fought in the major Russian engagements of the 1806-1807 Prussian campaign. During two of those battles, she saved the lives of two fellow Russian soldiers. The first was an enlisted man who fell off his horse on the battlefield and suffered a concussion. She gave him first aid under heavy fire and brought him to safety as the army retreated around them. The second was an officer, unhorsed but uninjured. Three French dragoons were closing on him. She couched her lance and scattered the enemy. Then, against regulations, she let the officer borrow her own horse to hasten his retreat, which left her more vulnerable to attack. During the campaign, she wrote a letter to her family explaining her disappearance. They used their connections in a desperate attempt to locate her. The rumour of an amazon in the army reached Tsar Alexander I, who took a personal interest. Durova's chain of command reported that her courage was peerless. Summoned to the palace at St. Petersburg, she impressed the Tsar so much that he awarded her the Cross of St. George and promoted her to lieutenant in a hussar unit (Mariupol Hussar Regiment). The story that there was the heroine in the army with the name Alexander Sokolov had become well known by that time. So the Tsar awarded her a new pseudonym, Alexandrov, based on his own name.

[Read more about Nadezhda Durova / Aleksandr Aleksandrov at her Wikipedia page.](#) 




The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars

Author: Nadezhda Durova

Published by Indiana University Press (1989)

I.S.B.N.-13 978-0253205490

From Amazon Books:  This fascinating memoir of a Russian woman soldier of the nineteenth century is presented for the first time in two independent English translations, each a graceful rendering of the original Russian. Nadezhda Durova (1783-1866), a young woman of the gentry, spurned her family, disguised herself as a man, and joined the Russian cavalry. She fought with distinction in the Napoleonic Wars and served from 1807 until her retirement as captain in 1816. The

details of a soldier's life and attitudes during this era are uniquely revealed through the eyes of this very special woman, a woman whose commitment to the military officer's conduct and spirit is a singular statement for her time. While there are minor differences between the translations, Zirin's extensive introductory essay and notes illuminate Durova's life and place it in its proper historical and literary context; this translation is further enhanced by a bibliography and index. Mersereau and Lapeza offer a brief introduction outlining Durova's life, but nothing more. Enhancements to any study of feminist literature or Russian history, both translations can be read with pleasure; at least one belongs in medium to large collections - Rena Fowler, Northern Michigan University, Marquette MI U.S.A.

Further Information

[Nadezhda Durova](#) 

[Nadezhda Durova: Russian Cavalry Maiden in the Napoleonic Wars](#) 

[Prominent Russians: Nadezhda Durova 17th September 1783 – 21st March 1866](#) 

Loreta Janeta Velazquez

Loreta Janeta Velázquez was born in Havana, Cuba, on June 26, 1842 to a wealthy Cuban official and a mother of both French and American ancestry.

Everything known about her comes from her autobiography *The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janeta Velázquez, Otherwise Known as Lieutenant Harry T Buford, Confederate States Army*. How much of it is true is unknown. Historians have generally doubted its veracity for the improbability of many of her adventures, her frequent vagueness or inaccuracy about names and places, and the absence of any evidence to corroborate her sensational claims.

At the age of fourteen she eloped with a Texan United States Army officer known only as William. She initially continued to live with her aunt, but after a quarrel with her she moved in with her husband and would live at various army posts, estranging herself further from her family by converting to Methodism.

At the outbreak of the American Civil War, her husband resigned his U.S. commission and joined the Confederate Army. She failed to convince him to let her join him so she acquired two uniforms, adopted the name Henry T. Buford and moved to Arkansas. She supposedly fought in the First Battle of Bull Run, grew tired of camp life and again donned female garb to go to Washington, D.C., where she spied for the Confederacy. When she returned to the South she was assigned to the detective corps and later left for Tennessee. In Tennessee, she fought in the siege of Fort Donelson until the surrender. She was wounded in battle, but was not exposed. She fled to New Orleans, where she was arrested, suspected of being a female Union spy in disguise. After she was released, she enlisted again, and at Shiloh, as she was burying the dead after a battle, a stray shell wounded her and the army doctor who examined her discovered she was a woman. She gave up her uniform at that point however later in Richmond, Virginia, authorities hired her as a spy. After the war, she travelled in Europe as well as in the South. She married a Major Wasson and emigrated with him to Venezuela.

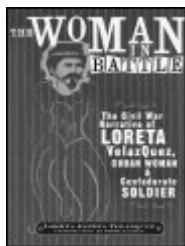



The Woman in Battle: The Civil War Narrative of Loreta Janeta Velazquez, Cuban Woman and Confederate Soldier

Author: Loretta Janeta Velazquez

Publisher: University of Wisconsin Press (2003)

I.S.B.N.-13 978-0299194246



From Amazon Books:  A Cuban woman who moved to New Orleans in the 1850s and eloped with her American lover, Loretta Janeta Velazquez fought in the Civil War for the Confederacy as the cross-dressing Harry T. Buford. As Buford, she single-handedly organized an Arkansas regiment; participated in the historic battles of Bull Run, Balls Bluff, Fort Donelson, and Shiloh; romanced men and women; and eventually decided that spying as a woman better suited her Confederate cause than fighting as a man. In the North, she posed as a double agent and worked to traffic information, drugs, and counterfeit bills to support the Confederate cause. She was even hired by the Yankee secret service to find "the woman ... travelling and figuring as a Confederate agent" — Velazquez herself.

Originally published in 1876 as *The Woman in Battle*, this Civil War narrative offers Velazquez's seemingly impossible autobiographical account, as well as a new critical introduction and glossary by Jesse Alemán. Scholars are divided between those who read the book as a generally honest autobiography and those who read it as mostly fiction. According to Alemán's critical introduction, the book also reads as pulp fiction, spy memoir, seduction narrative, travel literature, and historical account, while it mirrors the literary conventions of other first-person female accounts of cross-dressing published in the United States during wartime, dating back to the Revolutionary War. Whatever the facts are, this is an authentic Civil War narrative, Alemán concludes, that recounts how war disrupts normal gender roles, redefines national borders, and challenges the definition of identity.


Further Information

Wikipedia: [Loretta Janeta Velazquez](#) 

Civil War Trust: [Loretta Janeta Velazquez](#) 

Live the History: [Madame Loretta Janeta Velazquez: Heroine or Hoaxer](#) 

Maria Bochkareva

Edited from Wikipedia:  Of a peasant family, Maria Frolkova was born in the Russian Empire in 1889. She left home aged fifteen to marry Afanasy Bochkarev and they moved to Tomsk, Siberia where they worked as labourers. When her husband began to assault her, Bochkareva left him and entered a relationship with a local named Yakov Buk. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Bochkareva left Buk and managed to join the 25th Tomsk Reserve Battalion of the Imperial Russian Army by securing the personal permission of Tsar Nicholas II. Men of the regiment treated her with ridicule or sexually harassed her until she proved her mettle in battle. In the following years, Bochkareva was twice wounded and decorated three times for bravery. She bayoneted at least one German soldier to death.



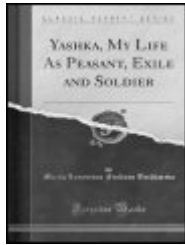
After the abdication of the Tsar in March 1917, she was charged with creating an all-female combat unit by Minister of War Alexander Kerensky. This was the first women's battalion to be organized in Russia. Bochkareva's 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death initially attracted around 2,000 women volunteers, but the commander's strict discipline drove all but around 300 dedicated women soldiers out of the unit.

After a month of intensive training, Bochkareva and her unit were sent to the Russian western front to participate in the June Offensive. The unit was involved in one major battle, near the town of Smorgon. The women of the unit performed well in combat, but the vast majority of male soldiers, already long demoralised, had little inclination to continue fighting. Bochkareva herself was wounded in the battle and sent back to Petrograd to recuperate.

Bochkareva was only marginally involved in the creation of other women's combat units formed in Russia during the spring and summer of 1917. Her unit was at the front at the time of the Bolshevik October Revolution and did not participate in the defence of the Winter Palace. The unit disbanded after facing increasing hostility from the male troops remaining at the front. Bochkareva returned to Petrograd where she was initially detained by the Bolsheviks but released shortly thereafter. She secured permission to rejoin her family in Tomsk, but left for Petrograd again in early 1918. She claims to have then received a telegram asking her to take a message to General Lavr Kornilov, who was commanding a White Army in the Caucasus. After leaving Kornilov's headquarters she was again detained by the Bolsheviks, and after learning her connection with the Whites, was scheduled to be executed. She was rescued, however, by a soldier who had served with her in the Imperial army in 1915 and who convinced the Bolsheviks to stay her execution. She was granted an external passport and allowed to leave the country. Bochkareva then made her way to Vladivostok, where she left for the United States by steamship in April, 1918.

She arrived in San Francisco and then made her way to New York and Washington, D.C., sponsored by the wealthy socialite Florence Harriman. She was given a meeting with President Woodrow Wilson during which she begged the president to intervene in Russia. Wilson was apparently so moved by her emotional appeal that he responded with tears in his eyes and promised to do what he could. While in New York, Bochkareva dictated her memoirs, *Yashka: My Life As Peasant, Exile, and Soldier* to a Russian émigré journalist named Isaac Don Levine. After leaving the United States she travelled to Great Britain where she was granted an audience with King George V. The British War Office gave her funding to return to Russia. She arrived in Archangel in August 1918 and attempted to organize another unit, but failed.

In April 1919 she returned to Tomsk and attempted to form a women's medical detachment under the White Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak, but before she could complete this task she again was captured by the Bolsheviks. She was sent to Krasnoyarsk where she was interrogated for four months and finally sentenced to execution, found guilty of being an enemy of the people. The Cheka carried out her execution by firing squad on May 16, 1920.




Yashka: My Life as Peasant, Exile and Soldier

Author: Maria Bochkareva

Publisher: Forgotten Books (2012)

I.S.B.N. Not Applicable

From Amazon Books:  "Yashka", as she liked to be called, Maria Bochkareva was a poor peasant girl who suffered great hardships growing up in Tsarist Russia. When W.W.I began she was living in Siberia, where she had followed her political prisoner husband. She decided to enlist in the army and fight for "Mother Russia". At that time there was no women's army in Russia, but she managed to enlist (I won't give away how she did it, but it's amazing). She went to the trenches, fought

alongside the men in the front lines, was wounded multiple times, and received medals for rescuing her wounded comrades while under enemy fire. The revolution caused her (and all of Russia) many difficulties which she describes with stark realism. This is a story of a very determined, heroic woman who decided what she thought was right and stuck to it. Regardless of your political views, you will be moved by this book.

Further Information


Wikipedia: [Maria Bochkareva](#) 

Spartacus Educational: [Maria Bochkareva](#) 

World War 1 History: [Maria Bochkareva - Commander of 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death](#) 

Maria "Yashka" Bochkareva (1889-1920) 

Billy Tipton

From Wikipedia:  Billy Tipton (1914–1989) was an American jazz musician and bandleader. Born in Oklahoma, U.S.A., he grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A., where he was raised by an aunt after his parents' divorce. As a high-school student, Tipton went by the nickname Tippy and became interested in music, especially jazz, studying piano and saxophone, and as he began a more serious music career, he adopted his father's nickname, Billy, and was more actively working to pass as male by breast binding and packing. At first, he only presented as male in performance, but by 1940 was living as a man in his private life as well.



Billy played with many different house bands throughout the United States, occasionally touring with them before establishing the Billy Tipton Trio, which consisted of Tipton on piano, Dick O'Neil on drums, and Kenny Richards (and later Ron Kilde) on bass. The trio gained local popularity and during a performance on tour in California, a talent scout from Tops Records heard them play and gave them a contract. The Billy Tipton Trio recorded two albums of jazz standards, namely "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "Billy Tipton Plays Hi-Fi on Piano", both released early in 1957. The Trio continued until the late 1970s, when worsening arthritis forced Tipton to retire from music.

For seven years, Tipton lived with Betty Cox, who was 19 when they became involved. According to Cox, they had a heterosexual relationship. Tipton kept the secret of his extrinsic sexual characteristics from Betty by inventing a story of having been in a serious car accident that had badly damaged his genitals and broken some ribs, so that to protect the damaged chest he had to bind it. From then on, this was what he would tell the women in his life. In 1960, he ended this relationship to settle down with nightclub dancer and stripper Kitty Kelly. They adopted three sons, John, Scott, and William. After Tipton's death, Kitty gave several interviews about him and their relationship. William described Tipton as a good father who loved to go on Scout camping trips. Their adopted sons became difficult to manage during their adolescence. Because of the couple's ongoing arguments over how they should raise the boys, Tipton left Kitty in the late 1970s, moved into a mobile home with their sons, and resumed an old relationship with a woman named Maryann. He remained there, living in poverty, until his death.

In 1989, at the age of 74, Tipton had symptoms he attributed to emphysema and refused to call a doctor. Actually he was suffering from a haemorrhaging peptic ulcer, which, untreated, was fatal. It was while paramedics were trying to save Tipton's life, with son William looking on, that William learned that his father had female anatomy. Tipton was pronounced dead at Valley General Hospital. The coroner shared this with the rest of the family. In an attempt to keep the secret, Kitty arranged for his body to be cremated, but one of their sons went public with the story. The first newspaper article was published the day after Tipton's funeral and it was quickly picked up by wire services. Stories about Tipton appeared in a variety of papers including tabloids, as well as more reputable papers such as *New York Magazine* and *The Seattle Times*.




Suits Me: The Double Life of Billy Tipton

Author: Diane Wood Middlebrook


Published Mariner Books (1999)

I.S.B.N.-13 978-0395957899

From Amazon Books:  The jazz pianist Billy Tipton was born in Oklahoma City as Dorothy Tipton, but almost nobody knew the truth until the day he died, in Spokane in 1989. Over a fifty-year performing career, Billy Tipton fooled nearly everyone, including Duke Ellington and Norma Teagarden, five successive wives with whom Billy lived as a man, and three children to whom he was father. As Billy Tipton himself said, "Some people might think I'm a freak or a hermaphrodite.

I'm not. I'm a normal person. This has been my choice". This jazz-era biography evokes the rich popular-music history of the Great Depression and reads like a detective story.

Lili Elbe

Edited from Wikipedia:  Lili Elbe was born in Denmark in 1882 and given the name Einar Mogens Wegener. While presenting as male for most of her life, she became a successful landscape artist and met her partner, Gerda Gottlieb at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. They married in 1904 when Lili was twenty-two and Gerda nineteen. They travelled through Italy and France, eventually settling in Paris in 1912, where Lili could live openly as a woman and Gerda could be actively lesbian.



In 1930 Elbe went to Germany for Sex Reassignment Surgery, which was only in an experimental state at the time. A series of five operations were performed over a period of two years. The first surgery, removal of the testicles (orchietomy), was made under the supervision of sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld in Berlin. The remainder of Elbe's surgeries were performed by Dr. Kurt Warnekros in the Dresden Municipal Women's Clinic. The second operation was to remove the penis, and transplant ovaries, which were taken from a twenty-six-year-old woman. These were soon removed in a third, then fourth operation due to transplant rejection and other serious complications. The fifth operation was to transplant a uterus and was intended to allow Elbe, then nearing the age of fifty, to carry a baby.


At the time of Elbe's surgery her case was already a sensation in newspapers of Denmark and Germany. The King of Denmark invalidated the Wegeners' marriage in October 1930, and Elbe managed to get her sex and name legally changed, including receiving a passport as Lili Elbe. She also stopped painting believing it to be something that only Einar did.

Tragically, she died just three months after her fifth and final surgery, the cause was once again believed to be transplant rejection. She is buried in Dresden, Germany.

It is believed that Elbe may have been intersexed; and may have had Klinefelter's Syndrome or some other SRY gene transfer condition. As most of the known types of intersex were not formally identified until after Lili's death, it is difficult to be sure. A Dresden doctor claimed to have noticed rudimentary ovaries and pre-operative blood tests indicated large amounts of female hormones at the expense of the male hormones.



The Danish Girl: A Novel
Author: David Ebershoff
Published by Penguin (2001)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0140298482

From Amazon Books:  A stunning first novel that probes the mysteries of sex, gender, and love with insight and subtlety. Inspired by the true story of Danish painter Einar Wegener and his California-born wife, this tender portrait of a marriage asks: What do you do when someone you love wants to change? It starts with a question, a simple favour asked of a husband by his wife on an afternoon chilled by the Baltic wind while both are painting in their studio. Her portrait model has


cancelled, and would he mind slipping into a pair of women's shoes and stockings for a few moments so she can finish the painting on time. "Of course", he answers. "Anything at all" With that, one of the most passionate and unusual love stories of the twentieth century begins.

Further Information

Wikipedia: [Lili Elbe](#) 

L.G.B.T. People of History Part 25: [Lili Elbe](#) 

Michael Dillon


Edited from Wikipedia:  Laurence Michael Dillon was born in Ireland in May 1915 in Ireland, his mother dying of sepsis ten days after giving birth. Dillon, then physically female and known as Laura Maud Dillon, was raised with his brother by their aunts in the town of Folkestone, Kent, England. He received his undergraduate education at Oxford and after graduating he took a job at a research laboratory in rural Gloucestershire.

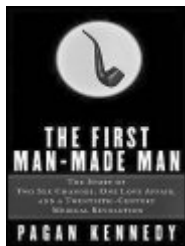


Dillon had long been more comfortable in men's clothing and felt that he was not truly a woman. In 1939, he sought treatment from Dr. George Foss, who had been experimenting with testosterone to treat excessive menstrual bleeding; at the time, the hormone's masculinizing effects were poorly understood. Foss provided Dillon with testosterone pills but insisted that Dillon consult a psychiatrist first, who ultimately gossiped about Dillon's desire to become a man, and soon the story was all over town. Dillon fled to Bristol and took a job at a garage. The hormones soon made it possible for him to pass as male, and eventually the garage manager insisted that other employees refer to Dillon as "he" in order to avoid confusing customers.

Dillon suffered from hypoglycaemia, and twice injured his head in falls when he passed out from low blood sugar. While he was in the Royal Infirmary recovering from the second of these attacks, he happened to come to the attention of one of the world's few practitioners of plastic surgery – at the time, a rare specialty maligned by most physicians. The surgeon performed a double mastectomy, provided Dillon with a doctor's note that enabled him to change his birth certificate, and put him in touch with the pioneering plastic surgeon Harold Gillies. Gillies had previously reconstructed penises for injured soldiers and performed surgery on intersex people with ambiguous genitalia. He was willing to perform a phalloplasty, but not immediately; the constant influx of wounded soldiers from World War II already kept him in the operating room around the clock. In the meantime Dillon enrolled in medical school at Trinity College, Dublin under his new legal name, Laurence Michael Dillon.

Gillies performed at least thirteen surgeries on Dillon between 1946 and 1949. He officially diagnosed Dillon with acute

hypospadias in order to conceal the fact that he was performing sex reassignment surgery. Dillon, still a medical student at Trinity, blamed war injuries when infections caused a temporary limp. In 1946 Dillon published *Self: A Study in Endocrinology and Ethics*, a book about what would now be called transsexuality ... [Read more about Michael Dillon at Wikipedia](#) 




The First Man-Made Man: The Story of Two Sex Changes, One Love Affair, and a Twentieth-Century Medical Revolution

Author: Pagan Kennedy

Published by Bloomsbury U.S.A. (2007)

I.S.B.N.-13 978-1596918313

From Amazon Books:  In the 1920s when Laura Dillon felt like a man trapped in a woman's body, there were no words to describe her condition; transsexuals had yet to enter common usage. And there was no known solution to being stuck between the sexes. Laura Dillon did all she could on her own: she cut her hair, dressed in men's clothing, bound her breasts with a belt. But in a desperate

bid to feel comfortable in her own skin, she experimented with breakthrough technologies that ultimately transformed the human body and revolutionized medicine. From upper-class orphan girl to Oxford lesbian, from post-surgery romance with Roberta Cowell (an early male-to-female) to self-imposed exile in India, Michael Dillon's incredible story reveals the struggles of early transsexuals and challenges conventional notions of what gender really means.


Further Information

[Wikipedia: Michael Dillon](#) 

[Michael Dillon: The World's First Transsexual Man](#) 

[L.G.B.T. People of History Part Thirty: Laurence Michael Dillon](#) 

Roberta Cowell

Edited from Wikipedia:  Roberta Cowell was born Robert Marshall Cowell in England in 1918. She left school at sixteen to join General Aircraft Limited and served in the Royal Air Force as a Spitfire Pilot during World War II between 1942 and 1945 ultimately becoming a prisoner of war and spending time at Stalag Luft I. She remained a prisoner for around five months, occupying the time by teaching classes in automotive-engineering to fellow inmates. Prior to the war, Roberta had been involved in motor racing, having gained initial experience by sneaking into the area where cars were serviced at the Brooklands racing circuit, wearing overalls, and offering help to any driver or mechanic who wanted it. By 1939, she owned three cars and had competed in the 1939 Antwerp Grand Prix.

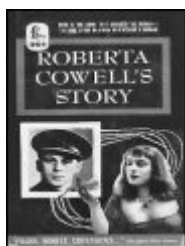


In 1948, Cowell separated from her wife and, suffering from depression, she sought out a leading Freudian psychiatrist of the time but was ultimately unsatisfied by the help that he offered. Sessions with a second Freudian psychiatrist gradually revealed that her unconscious mind was predominantly female and the feminine side of her nature, which all of her life she had known of and severely repressed, was very much more fundamental and deep-rooted than she had supposed.

By 1950, Cowell was taking large doses of oestrogen, but was still living as a man. She had become acquainted with Michael Dillon, a physician who was the first British female-to-male transsexual, after reading his 1946 volume *Self: A Study in Endocrinology and Ethics*. This work proposed that individuals should have the right to change gender, to have the kind of body they desired. The two developed a close friendship. Dillon subsequently carried out an Inguinal orchiectomy on Cowell. Secrecy was necessary for this as the procedure was then illegal in the United Kingdom and no surgeon would agree to perform it openly.

Cowell then presented herself to a private, Harley Street, gynaecologist and was able to obtain from him a document stating she was intersex. This allowed her to have a new birth certificate issued, with her recorded sex changed to female. She had a vaginoplasty in 1951. The operation was carried out by Sir Harold Gillies, widely considered the father of plastic surgery, with the assistance of American surgeon Ralph Millard. Gillies had previously operated on Michael Dillon, but vaginoplasty was then an entirely novel procedure, which Gillies had only previously performed experimentally on a cadaver.

In March 1954, news of her gender reassignment broke, gaining public interest around the world. In the United Kingdom, her story was published in the magazine *Picture Post*, her biography was published soon after this.




Roberta Cowell's Story

Author: Roberta Cowell

Publisher: Hamilton & Company (1955)

I.S.B.N. Not Applicable

From Amazon Books:  For the first thirty-three years of my life I was Robert Cowell, an aggressive male who had piloted a Spitfire during the war, designed and driven racing cars, married and become the father of two children. Since 18th May, 1951, I have been Roberta Cowell, female. I have become woman physically, psychologically, glandularly and legally. This incredible thing was not an overnight change. I had always known that my body had certain feminine characteristics. My


aggressively masculine manner compensated for this, at least as far as normal men and women were concerned, but homosexuals invariably took me for one of themselves. I was not a homosexual; my inclinations, as they developed, were entirely heterosexual. I was horrified and repelled by homosexual overtures, and this loathing included any boy who showed the slightest sign of being a "sissy". I could be friendly with other men, but I could not bear any form of physical contact with them. It was impossible for me to stand having someone link his arm in mine, and even shaking hands was

unpleasant.

Further Information

[Wikipedia: Roberta Cowell](#) 
[The Roberta Cowell Story: The First British Transsexual Woman](#) 
[Interview with Roberta \(Betty\) Cowell](#) 
[Betty Cowell, Motor Racer, Pilot](#) 

Christine Jorgensen

From [Queers in History](#):  Christine Jorgensen was born in 1926 and named George William Jorgensen, Jr. She grew up in the Bronx area of New York and was self-described as having been a "frail, blond, introverted little boy who ran from fist fights and rough-and-tumble games". She graduated from high school in 1945 and shortly thereafter was drafted into the Army.




Returning to New York after military service and increasingly concerned over her lack of male physical development, she heard about sex reassignment surgery and began taking female hormones on her own. She intended to go to Sweden, where at the time, the only doctors in the world performing this surgery were located, but during a stopover in Copenhagen to visit relatives, she met Dr. Christian Hamburger, a Danish endocrinologist and specialist in rehabilitative hormonal therapy. Jorgensen stayed in Denmark, and under Dr. Hamburger's direction, begin hormone replacement therapy. She then received special permission from the Danish Minister of Justice to undergo a series of operations. First her testicles were removed and a year later, still in Denmark, she had a penectomy. Jorgensen then returned to the U.S.A. and eventually obtained a vaginoplasty when the procedure became available there.

A media sensation developed on December 1, 1952 when the *New York Daily News* carried a front-page story announcing that Jorgensen had become the recipient of the first "sex change". This claim is not true as the type of surgery had previously been performed by pioneering German doctors in the late 1920s and early 1930s. When Jorgensen returned to New York she became an instant celebrity. There has been speculation that Jorgensen leaked her story to the press. The publicity created a platform for Jorgensen, who used her publicity to advocate for transgender people.



Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Autobiography
Authors: Christine Jorgensen and Susan Stryker
Publisher: Cleis Press (2000)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-1573441001

From [Amazon Books](#):  This handsome reprint of Jorgensen's 1967 memoir makes it abundantly clear how moments of grace can descend on even the most ordinary of lives. When ex-G.I. George Jorgensen went to Copenhagen in the early 1950s to consult experts in sexual deviance, he was afraid they'd simply proclaim him a fairy. A full battery of hormonal and psychological tests revealed that, while he was drawn to men, he was no garden-variety homophile; he was a lady. Keeping the

secret from his family, Jorgensen endured a groundbreaking series of operations, finally emerging in November 1952 as a delicately beautiful young woman. "I merely wanted to correct what I considered a misjudgement of nature" wrote Jorgensen, who died in 1989. No one seeing the photographs included here (many of them new to this edition) can doubt the success of Jorgensen's transformation or wonder too long at the fascination she engendered back home, where a newspaper bought her story for \$20,000 and she was proclaimed New York City's "Woman of the Year". A stage and screen career soon followed. As Susan Stryker points out in a new introduction, Jorgensen offers a somewhat flattering and selectively abridged account of herself in the autobiography, but no more so than any plucky girl smiling her way through what must have been, at times, a harrowing and lonely journey, but one that she conducted with remarkable dignity. - Regina Marler

Further Information

[Wikipedia: Christine Jorgensen](#) 
[Christine Jorgensen Website](#) 
[Christine Jorgensen Biography](#) 
[Christine Jorgensen \(1927–1989\) – Life Story](#) 

Catherine Coombes / Charley Wilson

From the *Bruce Herald*: "Catherine Coombes", shouted the gaoler at the Westminster Police Court late on August 2. And there stepped briskly into the dock a little, rough featured, grey-haired old man, in a coarse suit, carrying a bowler hat and a small black bag. That, at least, was the surprised Court's first impression of the prisoner. But the "little old man" was actually Catherine Coombes, sometime known as "Charley Wilson" — an extraordinary woman, who is believed to have passed as a man for half a century. "Age 68, painter and decorator", was the terse description of her that appeared on the charge-sheet. A policeman, it seemed, found her on the previous day in Winchester street, Pimlico, complaining of the loss of her bag. He arrested the supposed man as being drunk and disorderly. On reaching the police station the prisoner created a mild sensation by announcing that she was a woman. "And I've been a good woman, too, in my time", she added. "I was excited; I was not drunk", interposed the quaint figure in the dock, during the recital of these facts. A detective informed the Bench that Coombes had been in the workhouse and in prison. A remand was wished for. "Yes" said Mr Francis, the magistrate, "when an old

woman is going about in man's clothes there is good ground for further inquiries. It would be interesting to know whether she went to prison as a man or a woman. No further evidence was given, and Coombes was remanded. Bail in was allowed, but was not forthcoming. Few women have had so astonishing a career as Catherine Coombes, or Coome, as her real name probably is. Smoking a briar pipe, and dressed as usual in male attire, she first made the acquaintance of the Westminster Police four years ago when she walked into Rochester Row station. To an amazed inspector she found there she told the story of her life. She was married at the age of fifteen years to one Percival Coombes, she said. Many years afterwards she wedded, as a man, a woman with whom she lived for fourteen years at Huddersfield. For forty-five years, she went on, she had passed as a man. She called herself "Charley Wilson", and she had worked at the docks, in a printing office, onboard a ship, and as a painter and decorator. She is also said to have been employed as a bricklayer's labourer, and at several other kinds of toil requiring no special training. Catherine Coombes is not the only male-dressed woman Westminster has housed. There was another, who went so far as to seek enlistment in the Royal Artillery, and was detected by the doctor before whom she had unexpectedly to appear. In Court Inspector Spencer earned the soubriquet "He's a she" by his explanation to the magistrate on her trial.

Mademoiselle Jenny Savalette de Lange

Edited from The Bilerico Project:  Mademoiselle Jenny Savalette de Lange, lived in eighteenth century France in the Palace of Versailles. She was a ubiquitous figure of high Parisian society, and her life is a story of transgender empowerment at the same time that hers was also a difficult lot.

Mademoiselle de Lange was received into the most select royalist society of Paris, as the daughter of a well-respected royalist, and she was looked upon as a woman of true virtue and great intelligence, according to M. Lenote's *Romances of the French Revolution*. Brilliant proposals of marriage had been made to her, but two were broken off suddenly at the last minute before marriage. She was known to be poor, although upon her death, she was discovered to have a considerable sum, and had a pension from the State due to her father's status, and also managed the post office at Villejuif for a while, and was given an apartment in the Chateau de Versailles for a while. She wrote a good deal, "in a large, effeminate, almost illegible" hand, which apparently caused all her correspondents to complain. She was quite helpful to others, finding situations for servants, and finding money for people in debt, and many were quite devoted to her, called her "My Dear Angel". She had a great deal of influence, and befriended Queen Amelie and Prince Louis, Napoleon III..


M. Lenote, whose biography discusses the letters she wrote and received, interprets them as insolent to her royal correspondents. But given his obvious shock at the idea that someone born male could live as female, and must be mentally ill, it seems that he went astray in understanding that she was, in fact, someone who was a part of royal society, and spoke to them as her peers and equals.

Nonetheless, here is someone who seems to have made the very best of a difficult situation. Imagine being a transsexual woman trapped in the eighteenth century? No medical care, in fact, going to a doctor or a hospital could mean exposure and imprisonment. No marriage, which could be equally problematic. Secrecy always, and fear of discovery. And yet, she lived, by these accounts, a very full life with many dear friends and lovers. For Mademoiselle Jenny Savalette de Lange it appears that she was content to be herself, and seek the approval of no one outside herself for her justification.

Further Information

[A Gender Variance Who's Who: jenny de Savalette de Lange](#) 
[The Bilerico Project: Jenny de Savalette de Lange](#) 

Georgia Black

Edited from TransGriot:  Georgia Cantey was born in South Carolina U.S.A. in 1906 and at age fifteen, ran away from working on a farm in Galeyville, South Carolina and headed to Charleston. It was while working as a house servant in the city that Cantey began living as a woman. One of the unidentified members of the household staff supplied her with a feminine wardrobe and became her first boyfriend as she honed her feminine gender presentation.

Eventually that first relationship soured, and in Florida she met the man that would become her first husband, Alonzo Sabbe. He was quite ill at the time and after Cantey nursed him back to health Sabbe asked her to marry him. Sabbe also had a child named Willie that he had been raising. Willie was the child of Sabbe's cousin who visited Florida and abandoned him when he was three months old. Cantey adopted Willie and raised him as her own child after the couple moved to Sanford, Florida.


Sabbe's health took another negative turn and he died shortly after the marriage, and Cantey got married to Muster Black at the home of Mrs. Joanna Moore, the principal of Sanford's Black elementary school. Unfortunately, seven years after getting married for the second time in her life, the World War I veteran died and as his widow, Georgia was the beneficiary of his Veteran's Administration pension.

Georgia continued to live her life until she herself became ill and her story leaked out to the irate disbelief of the denizens of Sanford. The local police chief launched an investigation, but ended it after finding no evidence of criminal activity. Even Dr. Orville Barks was upset about his role in spilling Georgia's gender business. She was not intersex, and Barks caught some flack about the reporting about it from some of the denizens of Sanford.

The local paper, the *Sanford Herald* ceased publishing the story after pastor James Murray of the Trinity Methodist Church phoned the editor and protested about it being placed on the front page.


Further Information

Alan L. Hart

From Wikipedia:  Alan Hart was an American physician, radiologist, tuberculosis researcher, writer and novelist. He was born October 4, 1890 in Kansas U.S.A., assigned female at birth and named Alberta Lucille Hart. His father died in 1892, the family moved to Oregon, his mother remarried and in 1911 he wrote of his happiness during this time, when he was free to dress and live as a boy, playing with boys' toys made for him by his grandfather. His parents and grandparents largely accepted and supported his gender expression, though his mother described his desire to be a boy as "foolish". His grandparents' obituaries, from 1921 and 1924, both list Hart as a grandson.



When Hart was twelve the family moved to Albany, New York where he was obliged to dress as a girl to attend school and was subsequently treated as a girl. Hart graduated from Albany College in 1912, and in 1917 obtained a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Oregon Medical Department in Portland. during this period he also returned to Northern California to attend courses in the summer of 1916 at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He was deeply unhappy that the medical degree was issued in his female name, limiting his opportunities to use it in any future life under a male name.

Upon reaching adulthood Hart sought psychiatric counselling and radical surgery to live as a man. Hart's was the first documented F.T.M. case in the United States, though F.T.M. sex change surgeries had been carried out in Germany. In 1917 Hart approached Dr. Joshua Gilbert at the University of Oregon and requested radical surgery to eliminate menstruation ... [read more about Alan Hart at Wikipedia](#) . 

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Lower Surgery

An F.T.M. Success Story

by David Schreier, F.T.M. Issue 34, 1996

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Dr. Toby Meltzer

Well guys, I just got back from Meltzer's. I had the urethroplasty done (I had the genitoplasty done four years ago). And I'm happy to say, everything works just find. I have had no problems with fistulas (holes) or strictures (blockages). I am now eight weeks post-operative, and my urologist, Dr. Skoog says everything looks great. Now, to answer some of the concerns:

Since I had very little vaginal tissue they left it to do the urethroplasty in the future, they used the tissue from the inside of my mouth

First, how they do it. For the metoidioplasty, they first extend the enlarged clitoris and form a phallus. With the anterior wall of the vagina, they form the new urethra (they used to strip the lining at the base of the bladder and use this to lengthen the urethra, but it was too problematic). So, for those guys who have no intentions of having the vagina closed up, you may have to consider alternate options. The new urethra is connected to the existing urethra and extends through the bottom portion of the penis and comes out just below the head of the penis. It is done this way because if it were to go directly through the head, then it would distend the head and make it unnatural looking. The major point of concern for me was the site of attachment of the existing and new urethra. It was highly possible that this

site could have become swollen and become blocked. The secondary concern was fistulas. However, because they triple wrapped the urethra when they closed everything up, this was not as much of a concern as a stricture.

For the phalloplasty, fistulas are more prevalent, but they can be easily fixed. There are two distinct techniques for forming the new urethra when going this route which are very different than for the metoidioplasty. One route is to use abdominal skin that has had all the hair permanently removed through electrolysis. Another route is to use forearm skin.

My surgery was somewhat more complicated by the fact that I'd had the vaginectomy done four years ago (along with the free up). Since I had very little vaginal tissue they left it to do the urethroplasty in the future, they used the tissue from the inside of my mouth. With this, they were able to form the new urethra. This technique is commonly used for genetic children. Unbelievably, I was able to eat the day after surgery, but I was taking very small bites. I was flat on my back for six days while the new urethra healed.

For the first night, I stayed at Oregon Health Sciences University. After that, I was moved by ambulance to the Temporary Living Centre (T.L.C.) where I stayed an additional five nights. I originally intended to stay at a friend's house during recovery, but my urologist was uncomfortable with the thought of my movement on my part for fear of damaging the new urethra. So, he and Dr. Meltzer settled for T.L.C. This place was great. It's a centre set aside for those people who are too sick to be at home but too well to be in a hospital. It's a hospital-like environment with a twenty-four hour, on duty nurse who took care of my medications. They fed me breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I had my own room with a cot so that my wife could stay with me. They knew my situation because of my records, but they treated me no differently than anyone else. All this for \$100 per night (as opposed to O.H.S.U.'s \$1000 per night).

I was catheterised through my penis for three weeks to allow the new urethra to heal. At the same time, I was urinating through a super pubic catheter (through my belly). After the three weeks was up, they removed the catheter going through my penis, leaving the super pubic in and blocked off. This was so that I could use my new urethra while having a backup just in case a stricture did form. Fortunately, I had no problems besides a little pain from the swelling. A week after using the new urethra, they removed the super pubic.

Now, the results: I have now been peeing freely from the new urethra for six weeks now. Some good news and some bad news.

First, the bad news: Some things I hadn't been expecting (I have no brothers nor have I been with any genetic males so I had no point of reference). When I begin to urinate, I have no idea where the flow will go. It leaks a few drops after I've finished urinating. And lastly, because of my size (I am a little over two inches flaccid), a major concern of mine was being able to pull it out of my pants far enough so as not to hit my pants when it dripped. I had a long conversation with a genetic male friend of mine and found some very interesting things out.

The good news: The initial flow and leaking problems are the exact same for genetic males. That is why the urinals are always wet around the floors. When guys begin to pee, they have no idea where the flow is going to end up and have to redirect it after its begun. And then, when they have finished, they have to "spank it like a bad baby". A friend of mine read an article in a magazine regarding this issue. Apparently leaking becomes worse as men age. They suggested in this article for men to reach behind the scrotum after urinating and push up, essentially milking the last of the urine out. After hearing about this, I began to do it and voilà, no more dripping problems. So, these two issues are identical with those of genetic males.

The last issue was the length problem. I was told by my genetic male friend that I was at the stage he was at when he was three years old. I needed to learn, as he did, how to hold things and to practise. I have found that by holding my pants tight against my body under my penis while urinating, my penis extends far enough out so I can pee without getting anywhere near my pants, even after I've finished and it's just dripping straight down. I have found that the tighter the pants, the better - there's less material in front to have to push back. As for the flow, it comes forward, very quickly and very easily. Because of its new direction and because my penis hardens when urinating, I have found that using a urinal is much easier than a toilet (some genetic male friends of mine have said the exact same thing). To use a toilet, I have to redirect my penis down, whether I'm standing or sitting. I find that by using a urinal, I am able to leave my penis pointing straight out of my pants and the flow goes directly away from me, not going anywhere near my clothes and less chance that it will hit my shoes. Fortunately, I have been using a urinary device. I have gotten used to standing next to guys at the urinals and overcome some of my pee shyness. Not to mention I spend a helluva lot less time in the bathroom.

One last thing: As I stated, when doing the urethroplasty for the metoidioplasty, they use the vaginal wall. The tissue is still alive. They used the remaining bit of mine to aid in the connection of the new urethra to the existing one. As a result, I have found that when I become aroused, secretions will actually come out of my penis through the new urethra. Some have equalled it to pre-cum and semen. Another "pleasant" side-effect.

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

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European Progress

Outline of a Successful Activist's Case

Extract from [Stephen Whittle's in-depth legal analysis](#). 

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

On 14th December a Press for Change (U.K.), activist made legal history by taking her case for unfair dismissal all the way to the European Court of Justice ... and achieving a judgement in her favour. The judgement, ratified on the 30th April 1996, means that the European Community's Equal Treatment Directive applies throughout Europe, to all transsexual people. It affects, therefore, about 40-50,000 European Citizens. - Stephen Whittle



Stephen Whittle

In April 1991 'P' was taken on as a manager at an educational establishment operated at the material time by Cornwall County Council, the competent administrative authority for the area. A year later, 'P' told the Principal and Chief Executive of that

establishment (whom we shall call 'S'), that she intended to undergo a sex change operation. At first 'S' appeared supportive and tolerant, and reassured her about her position within the establishment, but later his attitude changed. According to the national court's reconstruction of the facts, 'S's change in attitude was essentially due to the opposition of the board of governors, who at one time put forward the idea that 'P' should continue to work for the establishment as a self-employed contractor.

In the meantime, in Summer 1992, 'P' underwent initial surgical treatment with a view to her gender reassignment, as a result of which she was absent from work on sick leave. It was during that period that 'S' and the governors took the decision to dismiss her, of which she was given three month's notice, expiring on 31st December 1992. At the same time 'P' was asked to complete by that date several specific tasks which she was preparing. When 'P'

informed them that she would be returning to work dressed as a woman, they told her that she could complete the tasks assigned to her from home, so that it was not necessary for her to attend the establishment's premises. Finally, 'P's contract of employment terminated on the date fixed without her having returned to work.

'P' underwent the final gender reassignment operation on 23rd December 1992, that is to say, before her dismissal took effect but after she was given notice on 15th September 1992 of the termination of her employment. On 13th March 1993 'P' brought an action before the Truro Industrial Tribunal, claiming that she has suffered discrimination on grounds of sex. Both 'S', and the council claimed, on the contrary, that 'P' had been dismissed by reason of redundancy.

The Industrial Tribunal found that whilst there was a case for redundancy, the true reason for the dismissal was the objection on the part of 'S' and the council to 'P's intention to undergo a gender reassignment operation.

The following extracts are from Stephen Whittle's Article 'Transsexuals Finally Make Legal Headway', printed in *Gems News* issue 2.3

... the Industrial Tribunal found that English law provides no protection to transsexuals, it long being the case that under the Sex Discrimination Act, all that an employer needed to show was that they would have treated a transsexual of either (naturally recorded) sex in the same manner. However the Attorney-General has approached the question differently. He asked not whether P would have been dismissed if she had in fact been a female-to-male transsexual, but rather would she have been dismissed if she had remained a man. Holding that she would not have been, therefore he could see no reason for not upholding a claim that there had been discrimination by reason of sex.

He held that, for the purposes of this case, and the European Directive, sex is important as a social convention. Discrimination is frequently to do with the social roles of women rather than their physical characteristics, similarly discrimination suffered by transsexuals is linked to moral judgments which have nothing to do with their abilities in the sphere of employment. As the Court has a duty to ensure that the general principles of Community Law are upheld, and as these include a respect for certain fundamental rights, one of which is the elimination of discrimination based on sex as expressed in the directive, then the

directive must be held to cover changes from one sex to another as much as it covers whether one is discriminated against because they are a man or woman.

If the European Court of Justice follows the Attorney-General's recommendation of extending equal treatment of men and women to cover transsexuals, to be ratified, it means that, according to Whittle; "throughout Europe it will be unlawful to discriminate against a transsexual, whether female-to-male or male-to-female, on the grounds that they are going to have or have had gender reassignment."

If the Court does indeed ratify the Attorney-Generals recommendations then transsexuals in England will finally be able to see legal changes to their position. Press for Change must be commended for their diligence in actively seeking human and civil rights for English transgendered people.

Here in Australia the struggle has been no less great, and with the advent of new legislation in Western Australia and New South Wales, transsexuals are closer to achieving the legal status that should be our birthright, as with all peoples of this Earth.

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Learning from the Curse

And a Note from Stephanie

by Stephanie & Ejler

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Stephanie: "I have purchased and discarded more dresses, pairs of high heels and wigs in my life than I care to remember."

The curse of my life has been my transsexuality which has made me fight endlessly against, myself (I am sixty-five) denying myself bodily changes which I have always desperately longed for. The cost of this situation has been my working powers, my vitality and my joy of life. Half a year ago, I took the most severe action of my life and decided to seek psychiatry, medicine, and surgery to help me overcome my energy-sucking discrepancy and physically become female.

It is my intention to avoid playing roles that I cannot honestly feel comfortable with.

My dear wife feels my decision is a betrayal and as such, is threatened and hurt. I can understand this perspective; so while my decision, for me, has created the most freeing, expanding vitalising feeling ever - on all levels it feels right - our family situation has gone into crisis.

Denmark has some forty to fifty people a year seeking help as I do, and only two to three people a year have their wishes fulfilled. Some go abroad if they have the money. With determination, creativity, flexibility and a lot of luck, I may get through. Were it not for my wife's resistance I would have tried five years ago, and were it not for my own resistance and self-judgement, I would have tried fifty years ago.

This most painful issue of my life ended my first marriage twenty-five years ago. My present marriage is now at a critical point, but hopefully, our relationship may continue and develop into a new structure, for we both feel that we have much to share - and we have a daughter of five. Recently, reading some issues of *Polare*, I have felt greatly supported; simply knowing that I am not alone with these challenges - that others are facing some of the same problems that I do - it does help a lot.

It is obvious that in the very wide spectrum of transsexual lives, many try to conform and some find their way fairly well, following similar patterns delineated by women and men in general. Some do live lives as sexy women and others of very male men, hence supporting the existing polarised patterns of gender.

Of particular interest to me however, are examples of lives where an unusual background is applied as a resource to introduce, in attitude and living action, into the consciousness of the greater community some of those unique insights, perspectives, questions, and attitudes which gender-crossing does offer as gifts of experience and wisdom. Hence, I greatly appreciate reading articles like Nicky Stone's "Androgyny" (*Polare* 7, which showed me how the curse of transsexualism may be transformed into a deeper human insight and a much needed revision of collective attitudes - attitudes and beliefs which have forced upon us the inhuman constructs of male and female as narrow, rigid and separated categories instead of wide, flexible, and creative ones.

I feel I never was a man and physically, of course, not a woman either. I always belonged between the sexes. For several years now, I have never been wearing the clothing disguising me as a man; it is all female, but not extremely so - no high heels, no wig, no padding, no make-up, rather, colourful scarves and pretty leggings. Hopefully, hormones can start quite soon and be followed by surgery.

Having for years been known in my small town as being somewhere between the sexes, and with no wish for dramatic changes in lifestyle, the bodily changes I long for might even be noticed by only a few of the people I daily meet in the streets and shops? So, I am one of those who explore the forbidden space between the boxes labelled "he" and "she".

It is my intention to avoid playing roles that I cannot honestly feel comfortable with. However, when occasionally I can feel my integrity, my strength and centering, this forbidden part of the spectrum of expression, opens up wonderful, joyful, and creative experiences. When fear, uncertainty and lack of awareness arise, I get those well-known feelings of inferiority, failure and humiliation. It is evident that my attitude to myself is the key to the opening.

In my process, I have from others, and, mostly from myself, endlessly heard words like "but the real issue is the acceptance of what is and not a question of male or female body". It is one of those powerful perspectives I have used to deny myself access to the desired bodily changes - and it's a tough one. I am no angel and I need to admit that I cannot accept my body being male. What is important now, is that I can accept that I cannot accept my male body.

I feel that I betray myself each time I copy or please others, or hide myself and refuse to stand up for the meanings and expressions of my individuality - even when facing ridicule and aggression. Of course I am not there all the time: I fail, I fear, I defend myself, I try to escape - and hopefully, do not blame myself for the failures, but often I do feel when I'm on the right track and when I'm not. This helps me have trust and guidance through the darkness.

And from Stephanie ...

Having just read your *Polare* newsletter I feel that I would like to share my experiences with you and your readers. Having had a great deal of happiness throughout my life, wearing women's clothes, from as early as I can remember, I feel very comfortable in high heels, I have purchased and discarded more dresses, and pairs of high heeled shoes, wigs in my life than I care to remember.

Being born in the United Kingdom in 1960 when females were females, being brought up in a loving family, but around my female cousins and sister, I was the youngest and the only boy amongst 8 females. It was then while playing with my sisters and cousins where gender took a turn for me; while playing doctors and nurses I was always the doctor. I protested a few times, when my role was reversed - at this time I was only about five or so. My sister, then seven, and cousins all about the same age, started ballet classes - we had to drop them off and pick them up as my father was the only one who had a car in the neighbourhood. I don't remember doing this next thing but my sister tells anyone at barbecues and the like, that I went into a shoe store in my own town and wanted to purchase some ballet shoes, which in 1964 was not acceptable, and the store owner said to my dad "tell him to come back when he's a bigger girl". I think now that this may have sparked my new wonderful hobby.

I'm now at the age of thirty-six years, married and have one dependent son of two years and another on the way. My wife maintains that she is open minded and knows about my desire to wear women's clothes, even to the point of my seeking employment were I can wear these clothes, yet she still finds a reason to throw it back in my face which has resulted in many an argument. I mentioned my son to her who puts on my wife's high heels and attempts to put on lipstick. My wife turns to me and says "take those shoes off, you're just like your dad". I love my wife and son very much, however, despite her malicious manner of argument like, "shut up you're just a transvestite", I still feel the need to wear high heels and panty hose.

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The Session + The Questions = The Answers

Max's Response to the Surgery Talk by Dr. Haertsch

by Max

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: October 2013



... please ensure you are carefully and professionally counselled and you've gotten all the answers [that are possible to get pre-surgery] to your questions.

May 15 proved to be an all round informative evening where Dr. Haertsch, I feel, adequately covered the techniques of surgery for tranny girls. Though he did appear to gloss over a couple of points, questions raised by the audience were answered concisely. The audience was also quite helpful in ensuring Dr. Haertsch left with some [to him] previously unknown facts.

Some people decide to have surgery and then again some don't - whatever you decide, make yours an informed decision.

Something though, I guess I'd expected, was little information and much less enthusiasm when it came to discussing tranny boys' surgery. A positive point though was Dr. Haertsch's belief that for tranny boys, transplants using micro-surgery could very well be eventually a reality, but alas it would either not come in my lifetime or if it did I'd be too old and senile to make any sense of what was being offered to me.

Admitting to not having succeeded at every operation, Dr. Haertsch explained his process over the years of trialling various surgical techniques used by other surgeons elsewhere in the world and discovering which he believes to be best and appropriate for each individual. Yes, he admitted to his knowledge of loss through suicide by three members of our community. He did deny the need for psychological intervention on his part as he is totally unqualified as a counsellor, [the issue of counselling demands further discussion].

I know there was recently a survey conducted on transnys, their lives, surgery, etc. and another survey approximately two years previously. I don't personally know of the results but I am prepared to surmise.

I feel that only a small portion of the tranny community responded to either survey. If that was the case then yes the surgical failure rate of the tranny community would appear to be greater than what it actually is. Needless to say, irrespective of the percentage we still need to ask, in what way was the surgery a failure?

- » Was it a physical failure, if so what was actually the cause of this failure?
- » Was it a psychological failure, did it not make the tranny a true man or woman as they supposed it would?
- » Was it a combination of both a physical and a psychological failure?

When we talk of suicide and its prevalence in the tranny community, we need to look carefully at where the prevalence lies. Is it more predominant within the pre-op or post-op tranny?

What are the reasons all these people are committing suicide? No doubt one could quite readily ask the same three questions as for surgery failure rates after all, people generally commit suicide because they deem their life a failure adding these further questions:

- » Were there any unresolved emotional problems in the tranny's life that was the sole cause of suicide?
- » Was it a combination of an operation's physical failure plus unresolved emotional problems?
- » Was it a combination of psychological failure plus unresolved emotional problems?
- » Was it a combination of an operation's physical failure, a psychological failure plus unresolved emotional problems?
- » Were there any other health problems?

Of course, unfortunately as these people are no longer with us, we will never really know why they chose to leave.

Dr. Haertsch spoke of receiving a letter from a consultant of the New South Wales Health Department (Clinical Policy and Practice) with a request for his assistance to look into policy and practices relating to; gender reassignment therapy, hormonal therapy, surgical procedures, and post-operative follow-up care. These are points I strongly feel are in need of attention, and if at all possible, I would like to be a part of the process.

I want to see it ensured that Dr. Haertsch, or any surgeon for that matter, does their best work on each individual. I want to see that every individual is fully aware that a successful outcome of surgery is based on their emotional acceptance as well as their psychological acceptance, and that Dr. Haertsch, or any other surgeon, has done their best. Since your body heals differently as do all individuals - one cannot truly compare against another.

What it boils down to in the long run is: even if Dr. Haertsch, or any other surgeon, says yes to performing surgery on you, ultimately you are the final decision maker therefore, for your own health's sake, please ensure you are carefully and professionally counselled and you've gotten all the answers [that are possible to get pre-surgery] to your questions.

Some people decide to have surgery and then again some don't - whatever you decide, make yours an informed decision.

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Sentencing Given in Significant Transgender Case

Seventeen-Year-Old F.T.M. Facing Eleven Felony Counts

by James Green, F.T.M., Issue 34

Article appeared in Polare magazine: June 1996 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



If convicted of all charges, Sean ... could have wound up in Colorado State prison for over thirty years!

Sean O'Neill, aged twenty, recently faced eleven felony counts including criminal impersonation and sexual assault on a child. His only crime was to be an F.T.M.

transgendered person who had experienced consensual sex with several teenage girls, when he himself was only seventeen or eighteen at the time.

In *Out* magazine, Donna Minkowitz; reported on the criminal proceedings observing that "the case ... is unique because it may be the first time law enforcement has treated gender deception as something tantamount to rape".

If convicted of all charges, Sean, likened by James Green upon first meeting him, "a frightened little boy", could have wound up in Colorado State prison for over thirty years!

His conviction posed the very real threat of the authorities making it a criminal offence to conceal your gender of birth to others.

On 16th February of this year, the hearing for Sean's trial took place. Community organisations from around the nation came to support him, including The Transsexual Menace, Menace Men, and Lesbian Avengers. Tony Barreto-Neto, a Deputy Sheriff from Florida and founder of Transgendered Officers Protect and Serve (T.O.P.S.), and James Green of F.T.M. International, were both asked to testify at the proceedings to "demonstrate that being a transsexual does not automatically make a person a criminal".

The D.A. had asked for the full prison sentence to be handed down, labelling Sean as a "predator", and stating that "she should be removed from the community". This is despite the fact, that if Sean had had a male body, the whole matter would have been routinely reduced to a misdemeanour, as is the case with most teenage heterosexual instances.

Sean's lawyers in turn asked for a minimum sentence of probation and counselling declaring that "Sean O'Neill is a troubled young person doing his best to find his way, and to find affection in this world, without role models or appropriate guidance".

The judge took twenty minutes to deliberate after a hearing of about three and a half hours. As a result of his deliberation, Sean received a sentence of ninety days in the county gaol with consideration for the appropriate accommodation, and is also to be on probation for six years. He will be a recorded sex offender and may not have unsupervised Contact with females under seventeen excepting his younger sisters.

As reported by James Green, the judge stated that "This case is not about paedophilia, not about transgenderism, not about love or trust, this case is about deceit and consistency".

James Green revealed that "We went to Colorado Springs because we felt it wrong for Sean, a confused young transgendered person, to be brought up on these charges. We achieved only a partial victory. But most importantly, we don't want Sean O'Neill to become another Brandon Teena ^[1]".

Sean's case was seen as significant for the Transgender Community. His conviction posed the very real threat of the authorities making it a criminal offence to conceal your gender of birth to others. This is despite the high level of discrimination and violence that exists towards transnys. Sean's sentencing, though greatly reduced, still allows this threat to exist.

Notes:

[1] An F.T.M. who was raped and murdered after his genetic female status became known.

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