

7.

I knew when I was really little.

I was modeling myself after my dad.

We were dressed as males in our dance classes, in Indian dance.

We wear male costumes for our dance performance.

It's not a problem in Indian culture to cross-dress. We experimented.

It was very accepted. I would wear boy clothes.

I didn't mind being the boy. I was made the boy because I was tall, often.

I think it just matters how much it affects you.

Later I wrote poetry that was talking about wanting to be a man.

I made paintings of myself with no hair.

Children often like artwork of mine –

Especially my drawings where I look like a man. They feel more real.

But I also live life seen as female.

I like it because I think it gives me a fresh perspective.

I like lipstick, I think it's fun.

Now cis-men – even they can enjoy it if they want.

What's the harm in it?

What's the harm in a little bit of makeup?

We're all going to have to stop assuming.

I feel I see the inequities more easily because I never separate the spheres.

That's a thing about separation of body and mind.

Allowing identity.

How do you reconcile as a non-binary person with the body you're in?

This body can belong to both women and men.

It has to get to the point where *the whole thing explodes into an alphabet of possibilities* –

You realize it's just the complexity of people.