

**Pridepalooza 2022 IG Live**  
**Queer Expression and Adornment**  
**Featuring Shohreh Davoodi & Alex Locust**

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**Alex Locust:** How are you?

**Shohreh Davoodi:** I'm doing great, how are you?

**Alex:** And I'm so jealous of your sparkle—your sparkle bust.

**Shohreh:** I know, I'm like, moving the camera back so it doesn't look like I'm naked for the entire live [laughing] because otherwise it definitely will. Um, this normally has straps that, like, hook in, and I went to put it on and one of the straps was hanging on by a literal thread. And I was like, well, we're just gonna have to toss the straps and go for total tube top bustier. So, welcome to my boobs, everyone. You're welcome.

**Alex:** Welcome to my boobs, Happy Pride!

**Shohreh:** Happy Pride! Uh, I'm so excited that we get to do this today. You and I were talking about this a couple of months ago, about what kind of conversation we might have for Pridepalooza this year. And we were like, you know what? Let's just do something that's fun for us and hopefully it'll be fun for other people.

**Alex:** Yeah. Yeah. I'm—I was just telling my friend earlier, I feel like something that's not, like, scripted. I feel like you and I facilitate a lot, we hold a lot of space, so it's nice to, like, play, you know? And just kind of, like, connect. It's just—I'm grateful for it. Happy, how's Pridepalooza been for you so far?

**Shohreh:** Pridepalooza has been going well so far. Getting to have lots of fun conversations with people. Um, I mostly just, like, I'm doing the TikTok and Reels thing lately, and for Pride, I'm like, I'm just gonna do things

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that I think are funny, and it's fine if other people don't think that it's funny because I'm having a good time.

**Alex:** I feel like you, you've already checked off so many squares in the Sagittarius bingo, like— [Shohreh laughs]—you're like, uh, straps gone! Cut it. I'm doing things that are funny, I hope other people like it. I could learn a lot from you.

**Shohreh:** Just fire sign fun times. That's what we said the official subtext for tonight was: fire sign fashion review.

**Alex:** Yes. The overtext. I don't think you and I do subtext very well.

**Shohreh:** Yes. Uh, so the only scripted thing I'll have us do is, I guess, introduce ourselves 'cause you'll probably have some people on who don't know me, and I'll have some people on who don't know you. Um, so go for it. Tell us who you are.

**Alex:** Ugh [flips hair], yes. Hello, everyone.

**Shohreh:** Ugh [flips hair].

**Alex:** Ugh [flips hair]! Yeah. Ugh [flips hair]! Ugh!

**Shohreh:** There we go!

**Alex:** There it is, there it is. I know, Opal helped curl my hair earlier, so we're doing some waves. My name is Alex Locust. I also go by Glamputee. I use, um, he, she, and they pronouns interchangeably. I'm Black biracial. I'm disabled. I'm queer. I, uh, live in San Francisco. I play in the Bay

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Area. Um, you know. I'm a facilitator. I'm a consultant. She dabbles in modeling, she dabbles in, you know, runway work.

**Shohreh:** Dance.

**Alex:** Dance, drag. Um, really my—my north star is disability justice. And so I've spent, um, the past couple of years really coming into that as a way of, um, being a community member, being a friend, being a lover. You know, how—what is the expansiveness of that? You know, how do I show up for people in ways that's informed by disability justice, that helps promote, you know, the, how do I spread the good word of disability justice? And really, like, looking to create art and spaces that celebrate all bodies, right? All bodyminds.

I think that's the beautiful thing about disability justice, is that, like, ableism is harmful to everyone, not just people who we might deem to be disabled. And so, uh, following the lead of, like, Black and Brown, um, queer and trans disabled people, uh, as a way of, like, helping liberate ourselves from that pressure has been just, like, a joy. And, yeah, I try to make it as, like, infectious as possible through adornment and fabulousity. And, you know, we are pink-on-pink today. I'm coming to you live from my— [gestures to pink wall].

**Shohreh:** Yes!

**Alex:** Yeah, that's a little bit about me.

**Shohreh:** Uh, yes, my pink wall was inspired by your pink wall. Because the rest of this office is, like, a blue gray color. And I was like, you know, I need an

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accent wall and we're just not gonna tell the old landlord about that.  
Again, Sagittarius energy, so.

**Alex:** Yes, you said I want to, so I will.

**Shohreh:** Yep. I'll paint it back when the time comes. But for now, it's fabulous.

Um, yes, your infectious energy is so clear in everything that you do. I love the fabulousness and the fun and the lightness that you bring to what can, and should be, a very serious topic. Um, but you make it your own. And I think that's kinda what we were talking about with this live, too, where it's like, yeah, we're talking about something that's serious in terms of queerness and adornment, and those are very important topics, but we're gonna do it in our own way and we're gonna have a lot of fun with it. 'Cause that's how—

**Alex:** Totally.

**Shohreh:** I think if we're gonna do this kind of work, like, service work, uh, and work that is anchored in social justice, like, we have to have the joy and the pleasure as well. We talk a lot about pleasure activism whenever you and I get together and how we embody that.

Uh, and for those of you that don't know me, I'm Shohreh Davoodi. I use she/her pronouns. I identify as queer and a lesbian. I am mixed-race; I'm half Iranian and half white. I'm also neurodivergent; I have ADHD. And I work as a self-trust coach for primarily queer folks. Uh, I also work with non-queer folks too, but just on account of me being queer, the vast majority of my clients have ended up being queer. And I really try to help people come home to themselves and find their inner

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wisdom in a world that has taught, especially queer folks, but all marginalized people, that you can't be trusted, and actually, you need to fit into these boxes and live according to this, and this, and this, that has nothing to do with what you actually want or what feels good to you. So, it's about coming back to the mind-body, figuring out what it is that you need and is gonna give you the kind of life that you're gonna be happy to be living.

And I love doing that work. And it's brought me into contact with awesome people like you, where now I get to do all kinds of collabs with you. And it's one of my favorite things.

**Alex:** [Laughs] Yeah, we do have a good history together. We have, uh, many—I'm, like, imagining us as pop stars. [Shohreh laughs lightly] We have quite a few duets in our history so far.

**Shohreh:** Yes. Okay, but which pop star duo would we be? There's so many great ones out there.

**Alex:** Wow.

**Shohreh:** That was a tough question to put you on the spot with, I know.

**Alex:** I know. I'm gonna be honest, my first thought, best thought, I went to Sweetest Pie. I feel like, you know, we're giving a lot of—Dua is—I know Dua is a Leo. I don't know what Meg Thee Stallion's astrological sun sign is, but [laughs lightly] it's definitely fire-y. Like, that video could be full Sagittarius, so.

**Shohreh:** Yes.

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**Alex:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Shohreh:** I like that. I will take it. Um, amazing. So, you're gonna be doing some outfit changes today. I feel like I wanna explain that before you start disappearing at random intervals [laughter]. Um, so what Alex and I did before we got on this live is that we picked out some different prompts for outfits for you, of, you know, if you were gonna go to this thing, what is the outfit that you would be wearing?

So we're gonna kinda be talking about different outfits and style, why you would pick what you would pick. I've got, like, a whole table of makeup next to me to talk about some fun makeup things and some of my favorite products and tricks and stuff like that. And we'll sprinkle through it, you know, why adornment and expression, this matters so much to us as queer people.

But let's start with your first outfit. So, what are you wearing right now? What is this one for?

**Alex:** Yes. This one, uh, I believe the prompt you said, like, picnic day, like...

**Shohreh:** Yeah, picnic day in the park. Yes.

**Alex:** Picnic day at the park. Exactly, yes. So being in San Francisco, typically that's Dolores Park. Um, I love—I have—I'm gonna try this angle [adjusts camera], tell me how we're doing.

**Shohreh:** There you go. That's perfect. Ah, I love the shirt!

**Alex:** We've got the shirt.

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**Shohreh:** You!

**Alex:** Little shorties. Uh, I feel like a modest, kind of, I feel a little like a tropical cruise director [laughter]. Um, a moment. I love this as like a park day 'cause, you know, you've got shorts. Always gotta—I like, I love showing off the leg meat, the thigh meat. Oh, thank you Andrew. And I love this pattern. It is, like, really plays into my love of, like, tropical, jungle, shenanigans. There's, like...I should know animals, especially if I'm wearing them [Shohreh laughs]. Are we a cheetah? A jaguar? It's a big cat.

**Shohreh:** It's a big cat.

**Alex:** It's Leo adjacent. Um, you know, I can give a lot of the taco meat, as my friend calls it [laughs].

**Shohreh:** Okay, talk to me about how you decide how many buttons you're going to unbutton.

**Alex:** You know, this is an excellent question. I feel like I saw Ryan Patrick was on the call. I don't know if he's still logged in. But, like, RP has been, uh, just a beacon of inspiration. Because every time I see that babe out in public, like, it is nearly belly button deep. And so, I'm always like, okay, I'm gonna unbutton one more.

**Shohreh:** You can do one more.

**Alex:** I remember, you know, like, baby Alex being like, this is, you know, I'm ready to go outside.

**Shohreh:** All the way buttoned.

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**Alex:** All the way. And then I'd be, like, okay, maybe one, you know? Um, I feel like my chest hair was, like, a really big thing that I dealt with for a while. Which feels really silly now, knowing how much I love it. But, like, you know, people made a lot of comments about, like, body hair in Miami. Like, we can talk about that. But, yeah, I just love being so unbuttoned at points where I'll just look down and be like, is my titty out? [Laughs lightly] Like, we are just, I am just giving.

So, yeah, I feel like I usually unbutton one more than I think. Um, I'm starting to—I've got some grays in my chest hair that's showing, so I wanna put them on display. So, um, yeah. I've got this, like, flower earring. You know, I like this necklace, it gives a little, like, you know, San Francisco has somebody, you know, got me collared up. And I'm like, it's me. I have the key. [Laughter]

Um, and you know, this kinda shirt's great because if I wanna take it off, it's easy. If it's hot, it's hot. Let's do it.

**Shohreh:** Yeah, I love the pattern on the shirt. And then, first of all, with the buttons unbuttoned, I mean, you need a breeze. You know what I mean? Like, you've gotta cool this area down, so, this makes sense to me. And like you said, this is a picnic in the park. So you might decide you wanna get a little sunbathing action, and then you made it really easy for yourself 'cause you've only gotta do, like, two buttons, and then tah-dah. Get that golden sun happening.

**Alex:** Yes. How about you? Makeup wise for a park day? What are you...

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**Shohreh:** Oh, yes. Probably I would not go with the—this, giant false eyelashes for a park day. Let me—I will come close so people can see this look, though [moves closer to camera]. Here you go, let me face model for everybody.

**Alex:** Yes.

**Shohreh:** Um, so, this look I would not do for park day. Um, but, basically, I've got my little face gems here, which are one of my favorite things and I'm gonna talk about them soon. I am wearing false eyelashes, which I'll also talk about. And then I've got, like, the glitter corner. We've got, like, a glitter highlight you can see here, too.

So, um, here in Texas, that would be—it would be way too hot. This would just be coming off my face. Um, and I probably wouldn't do something quite this dramatic for, um, park day. But I think that I would just simplify all of this. Like, honestly, in the summer here, I, a lot of times won't even mess with eye shadow unless I'm going out-out.

Like, if it's a daytime thing, it's like, okay, I might just put on some eyeliner and mascara. And then if I wanna, like, do something fun, you and I are both a fan of the Fenty lip glosses. And I've got some of them with me. So, this is actually a new one I'm trying. I don't know if you've tried the Cream kind?

**Alex:** Yeah.

**Shohreh:** So, it has more color pigment. You're like, yes, I have all of them [laughs].

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- Alex:** That's the one I've been using, I almost put it on. Is it—uh, what is the color called? Fruit snacks?
- Shohreh:** This one is, um [looks at lip gloss label]...something else.
- Alex:** Oh.
- Shohreh:** I don't think it says fruit snacks. Honestly, the print is so tiny.
- Alex:** It looks very similar, but maybe not.
- Shohreh:** Yeah, it's a pretty similar shade. But, so I had—previously, I only had, like, the glittery ones. And I love these. Um, and these last for a really long time 'cause I use these, like, almost every time that I do my makeup. And when I was on the website recently, I saw this new Cream kind, which has just, like, more pigment, which is nice, if you are wanting less gloss and more color. And then—oh, I also got this one, which is, like, this fire-y, like, orange color one that I feel like you would love.
- Alex:** Wow, wow, wow.
- Shohreh:** Um, but, so, for those watching, I am not a lipstick person typically. Like, if I wanna go all out and do the lipstick thing, I'll do it. But I don't have a lot of lipstick. So if I do it, I like to do the, like, Sasha Velour, like, red with glitter all over it, sparkle. And it's like, if I'm doing that, I can't really eat or drink too much. I can't really, like, kiss my girlfriend. Like, it's like, this lip needs to just be looked at.
- Alex:** Yeah. I get you.

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**Shohreh:** It's just not my favorite. I like to be able to, like, use my mouth. I like to eat and drink and do all the things when I'm going out. So, I much prefer lip gloss. But it looks fancy, and the Fenty ones especially, I feel like they just look really good. And they're so glossy and they make your lips look awesome. So, one of my number one tips is if you, like, wanna elevate what you're doing with very little work, just put on lip gloss.

**Alex:** Yes.

**Shohreh:** Add a little shine and it looks like you really tried.

**Alex:** Yep. Yeah. I literally did that right before this call. I threw—it's here, I'll grab it. It's called, uh, Lanolips.

**Shohreh:** Let me see!

**Alex:** It's, uh...

**Shohreh:** Ooh, I haven't tried this before.

**Alex:** Yeah, it's uh, it's made with—there's an oil that comes out when they, like, when they sheer sheep for cotton, which [Shohreh laughs lightly] normally they would just ditch it, but it's like, really moisturizing. So, it's, like, trying to add to zero waste. But, yeah, I love this—it's got this tiny cute little applicator. It's so—it's very precious. Look, it's like, beep beep.

**Shohreh:** Aw, that is cute.

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**Alex:** Yeah, and then I just put a little [dabbing motion]—and you're good to go.

**Shohreh:** That's perfect. There you go. So now two great lip gloss options for people. And the Fenty one is super moisturizing as well. And it, like, tastes fine. Like, it doesn't have, like, a weird chemical taste or anything, so that's one of the reasons it's become a big favorite of mine.

**Alex:** It's just sticky, I feel. I feel that when I put the Fenty one on, like, I have to have my hair up or I have to know it's not gonna get— 'cause it's juicy.

**Shohreh:** That's true. And I think that's the difference with the cream kind. This is not nearly as sticky, I've found.

**Alex:** Ah, yeah. Yeah.

**Shohreh:** Um, I think it's time for your first outfit change.

**Alex:** Outfit change, okay. I'm gonna let you—like, you're kinda doing the roulette wheel, so you tell me what I'm doing.

**Shohreh:** Um, yes, for those watching, I picked out three that Alex knows in advance. And then the final look is gonna be one that you don't know what it is [laughter]. So, it'll come directly from your closet. Um, okay, so you've already done picnic date in the parch—in the park, not the parch. Um, and I think let's next move to roller rink performance.

**Alex:** Okay, yes, and I already know what I'm wearing. I've got it.

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**Shohreh:** Excellent. Okay, so Alex is gonna disappear and put on their roller rink performance outfit. And I'm gonna talk to you about some makeup stuff while Alex is doing that.

So, one of the things I wanted to talk to you guys about, so I'm wearing a false eyelash right now. I will come and bring it close to you [moves closer to camera]. My eyelashes are obviously not this gigantic. And I am not a false eyelash person. I hate fucking with eyelash glue. Like, I feel like it's always coming off. So one of my favorite things that I've discovered is magnetic eyelashes. They are incredible.

**Alex:** [From off camera] What?!

**Shohreh:** And, so this is the brand that I really like. It's called Glamnetic. And the way that this works is, you buy an eyeliner that has, like, tiny, tiny, little magnets in it that you cannot see or feel. I put it over my regular eyeliner because I just have an eyeliner I prefer. So I'll do my, like, wing first, and then I'll just put this over that on the lid. And then these just attach magnetically. And it's the best thing in the world because it is so easy to put them on.

It is a little annoying to get off the eyeliner after the fact. Like, use the micellar water stuff for sure and then wash your face really well. But, if you wanna do the false eyelash thing for a photoshoot or 'cause you're going out or you just want a more dramatic look, highly recommend the magnetic ones. Because I do not fuck with the non-magnetic ones because it's just—I don't wanna learn. I know that I could if I put a lot of practice into it, but why not? Why not make things easier for us? So,

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that is one of my recommendations for you, is these magnetic eyelashes.

Um, I'll also talk to you—oh! We're back already! That was so impressive.

**Alex:** I told you, I thought I was, like, I'm gonna try—I took this as a game show, you know, so it's like, I gotta... [Laughter]

**Shohreh:** This is your, like, pop star quick change.

**Alex:** Yes. Yes, absolutely. Did you hear me when you said you had, uh, magnetic?

**Shohreh:** Yes!

**Alex:** I was like, what?!

**Shohreh:** Have you not tried these?

**Alex:** No, I have not. That sounds hard.

**Shohreh:** Oh my gosh—for your drag, you will love them, cause it's just so much easier. And they have all different shapes and stuff. So, check out the brand Glamnetic, they're awesome. And, each eye lash, I think it's, like, up to 40 or 50 wears, like, per thing.

**Alex:** Wow.

**Shohreh:** So they're a little more pricy on the front end, but you get a ton of use out of them.

**Alex:** Yeah. Bing.

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**Shohreh:** Yay! Okay, so, this is your roller rink performance outfit. Tell us about it.

**Alex:** Yeah. So, I'm sad. Before we hopped on, I couldn't find the pants. I feel like today, part of the video—have you seen any of, um, Mo Hart, through Amazon Prime has this YouTube series where she, like, goes and interviews, uh, like, singers about their closets? And so—

**Shohreh:** Yes, I see the clips on TikTok all the time.

**Alex:** They're so cute. So, I was like, I was gonna come up with a new outfit. And then I was like, you know, my OG, my start, was, uh, Midas Touch last year, so I wanted to, like, share my outfit for you with that. So, this is, like, it's close. It's not the purple hammer pants, I couldn't find them. But—

**Shohreh:** But it's the jacket, yay!

**Alex:** It's the jacket. It's the—I've got a body suit. You know, she's sheer. It's kinda fun. Um, Amy, my roommate painted—can you see that there's a purple heart?

**Shohreh:** Aw, yes! It's like your own little Prince symbol.

**Alex:** Yes, right. Yeah, so, I got this jacket at, uh, I believe they're only online now. But there's a thrift store in San Francisco called Schauplatz. And my friend, Sarah Catherine, showed me. And they just have all these, like, incredible, like, you know, I mean, this jacket is just—like, these shoulder pads. I feel like I've had so much fun, like, digging into '80s silhouettes and, like, cropped, you know, it's a bolero. Like, I'm 5'8", so anything that [laughter] gives me the illusion of, like, an extended torso,

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I'm like, oh, hi, hello. Um, I also feel like in the gender euphoria, it's kind of hilarious to, like, be doing femme things while also, like, adding to, like, a, you know, football player [laughter] sort of big frame.

**Shohreh:** Yes, the shoulder pads.

**Alex:** Yeah. Um, yeah. I have these, like, really amazing purple pants that are just, like, super flowy, and it was really fun to do, like, a skating number in all of this, like, Prince-y purple. Like, my friends were back-up dancers, and the song Midas Touch, the chorus is "everything I touch turns to gold." And so they're out in the audience and every time, uh, like, they were kind of secret plants. And so when the chorus got to that, I would touch them, and then they would burst out and take off what they were wearing and then they were wearing gold.

So, it's like, I love purple and gold together. It feels very regal. It feels very, like, you know, my Leo royalty fantasy, just kind of getting to be, like, playful and, like, sumptuous. I feel like purple is, like, my, it's like my elevated pink. You know, if I'm in purple, I'm feeling very, like, I don't know, in that place. You know.

**Shohreh:** I also am a big purple and gold fan, together, apart. I also think, you know, with kinda the mixed skin tones that we have, like, we have that golden undertone, and so those colors, like, look really nice and catch really nicely on our skin.

**Alex:** That's a really good point. I never thought about that, uh, the skin tone. I'm also now remembering I love this earring. It's, like, a cute little jewel, a little droplet.

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How about you? I mean, I know, apparently this is not your park drag. Which, by the way, if you wore that for me for the park, I wouldn't complain. [Shohreh laughs] But, is it—

**Shohreh:** Well, in San Francisco I might because the weather is a very different situation.

**Alex:** Yes, yes, it's a little different here than [laughs] in Austin. Uh, is this closer to, like, drag makeup for you? Would you like—do you have any songs that you have done or are thinking of doing drag-wise?

**Shohreh:** Oh my gosh, yeah. So, my, like, sort of drag equivalent is trapeze. So, and it's been a couple of years since I've performed because of the pandemic and everything. Like, there weren't performances happening for a while, which makes me sad. But, um, that is the most similar thing, where, like, when I do trapeze, like, I'm not a very, like, ballerina, graceful, like, that's not my style of aerials. Like, kind of like there's different styles of drag and there's different styles of roller and all of these things, that's not my style.

I usually go for, like, more comedic things. Not always, but, like, more comedic things, or at least, like, I'm a character and I'm trying to tell a story. Like, that's how I like to do it. And so for those, I get to, like, dress up and do something fun. So, one of the performances I did was we had a video game themed show, and I put together an Ashley Ketchum outfit.

**Alex:** Oh my god.

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**Shohreh:** Um, which was fabulous, and I had, like, a little Pikachu stuffed animal that was part of the performance. And my favorite part is that I—there's a part where I'm, like, on my trapeze and I go upside down, and I had Pokémon cards hidden stuffed into my, like, leotard. And so, I took them out, and while I'm spinning, I'm, like, throwing the Pokémon cards out into the audience and everyone lost their minds. Um, so that's kinda my drag [laughs].

**Alex:** I'm speechless right now. I am so sad I did not get to witness this. I mean—

**Shohreh:** I have video. And I will send it to you.

**Alex:** I—yes. You had me at Ashley Ketchum, and then you had to go, and, like, Sasha Velour reveal your, you know.

**Shohreh:** Yeah, it's fun. I love it. Like, when I have the time to put together a whole performance, like, I really love doing that and that audience interaction. And of course, the complication of, like, being on a trapeze. So I'm also, like, doing fancy things in the air while trying to give a character, um.

And so the songs that I choose is just kinda, like, dependent on if there's a specific character I'm going for. Or, if there's something I'm, like, really vibing with. So, the summer that, like, um, is it "High Hopes" by Panic! At The Disco came out, like, and that was, like, the song of that summer. I was working on, like, an '80s workout themed performance to that song.

**Alex:** Yeah.

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**Shohreh:** So, like, I just, it was really high energy, and I was like, I just wanna dress up like an '80s workout instructor and somehow turn this into a trapeze performance with this song. So, random things kinda inspire me when I'm doing that stuff.

But I'm curious for you, how did you get into roller skating? Because I feel like one moment you were not. And then I was like, now you're performing on skates, and this is the most badass thing I've ever seen!

**Alex:** Thank you! I mean, the funny thing is, I don't even—I couldn't even tell you when I think I started. Um, I know that I skated when I was in college. And, uh, I had a lot of fun, like—so I went to University of Miami in Florida. Miami is very flat. Um, our campus, like, I would say to get from, like, place to place on campus, it's like 15 minutes to half an hour at, like, the most, you know? It's hot in Miami, you know, and so I'm, like, do I wanna, like, walk to where I'm going and just be, like, slow and in this heat?

Or, like, I don't remember how I came into roller blading. But, like, roller blading is, like, such a fun way of, I'm getting from point A to point B and quickly. Um, to the point where I became this, like, campus legend. [Shohreh laughs] Like, people would meet me, and they'd be, like, I see you around campus all the time, and I've wanted to be friends with you forever. You know, like, so it's just this really, like, mundane thing for me that I mostly did because I was like, I love listening to music and skating. I love that I'm getting to class in, like, half the time. I love that I'm not outside as long as I would be in the heat. But to other people, they're just like, wow! You know?

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Um, I think it's also, skating, like, roller blading is very similar to skiing. You know, I grew up skiing. So, to me, it feels very normal. And then in the pandemic, skating kind of, like, for some people really, like, was a—there was that resurgence. And then they—and then Nicki Jizz and Mama Celeste, here, started that party, Rollin' with the Homos, and I just, like, for months, was like, this is incredible. I can't believe this is real. Like, I love roller skating. I would love to perform there. I felt so nervous 'cause I was like, I don't do drag. And yeah. I had friends in my life who just kinda, like, nudged me. And, you know, like, shout out to Nicholas, like, really had, like a great conversation at a party and it was just, like, go for it.

And I think that was just kinda—it seems very, like, behind the scenes or all of the sudden, but skating has just kinda been, like, a part of how I get around, you know? It's—not in San Francisco [laughs lightly]. It's so hilly, so, you know, I really can't, uh, get, like, from place to place. But as a performance means, it's been kinda fun. I've performed on foot, on drag, last week. And I was like, this is so much harder [Shohreh laughs] than roller skating drag for me, you know? So, that was kinda funny to notice. Yeah.

**Shohreh:** That's funny. I think most people would probably say the opposite, so.

**Alex:** Well, you know, that's what I thought, too, but here we are. How about—I'm curious for you, you mentioned, like, with trapeze, you lean more comedic, or, like, it sounds like there's, you're building in some elements of play and things like that. Where...when you think about your, like, adornment or your expression, have you thought about kind

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of why you lean more towards comedy? Or, like, what about comedy do you feel like helps you kind of, like, tell the story that you're looking to tell when you're up there performing?

**Shohreh:** Yeah. So, I think it's twofold. Part of it is that, like, I am not, like, a naturally super flexible person. So, I don't have, like, a split, or like this huge backbend. I don't have, like, a dance, ballet background, or anything like that, gymnastics, like, a lot of these backgrounds that a lot of aerialists have. And for a lot of those folks, they lean more towards these really lyrical and graceful, and, like, you know, soft music kind of performances where it's a lot of being in those poses that I physically cannot do.

**Alex:** Yeah.

**Shohreh:** Um, and so, you know, part of it, there's a fear piece where I'm just like, uhhhh, I don't wanna do that, even if, like, maybe I was interested in it. Which, I'm typically not. But even if I were, there's part of me that's like, well, I'm definitely not gonna compare to, like, do what other people can do in that space. I'll be honest and say a piece of it is definitely that.

Another piece of it is that, like, as we've discussed, I'm a Sagittarius. I live—I live to entertain people. And for me, I find it much easier to connect with an audience, like, in a character, like Ashley Ketchum, or the '80s workout instructor, or if there's just some kind of, like, clear theme running through it.

Like, I did a performance, um, shortly after I first came out as bi. And as I mentioned at the beginning, I identify as a lesbian now, but years ago,

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I identified as bi. And I did a performance to Kacey Musgraves's "Follow Your Arrow," where I wore, like, a glitter cape, and cowboy boots and, like, a rainbow, like, leotard situation. And it was this big, like, kind of, like, coming out celebration piece. It was very true to me; it was really fun. And I also, like, love that song and resonated with it. I loved the idea of doing trapeze in cowboy boots. Um, you know, like, that whole thing felt very draggy, now that I think back to it.

I didn't know much about drag at that time, but really, I was putting on drag. Um, and so I think, like, that was all appealing to me because, like, I can draw a really clear line between, like, what I'm trying to do and what I want the audience to feel. and the connection that I'm trying to get from them, and, like, the experience that they're having. I'm having fun if the audience is having fun. So, that's kinda where my mind goes to, and why I'm more drawn to those performances.

It's not that the audience isn't having fun when they're watching, like, a really beautiful, like, lyrical performance. Um, because they're always impressed, right? They're like, oh my god, these splits are amazing, like, it's so graceful, so beautiful. Um, but that stuff just comes a little bit less naturally to me, and it's a different kind of audience connection. And I prefer a rowdy audience [Alex laughs], so really, I'm like, I want you clapping and screaming for me, thank you.

**Alex:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, not like, the kind of, like, silent, pensive, like, wow, mmm.

**Shohreh:** Yeah, exactly. What did we say with the Gaga, like, I live for the applause?

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- Alex:** Yes.
- Shohreh:** That line, so.
- Alex:** Yes. [Laughs lightly] Yeah. Are we in this moment more Beyonce-Gaga doing "Video Phone"? Is that...
- Shohreh:** Yes, yes! That's what it is!
- Alex:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.
- Shohreh:** There you go. I saw a TikTok the other day that was like, you know, why do you think millennials, like, are struggling so much? And it was like, because, and it was a screenshot at the end of that video where it said, "to be continued..." It was like, because this promise was never made [light laughter].
- Alex:** This is like, my attachments issues are, they stem from Gaga and Beyonce telling me that they would be back, and they never were.
- Shohreh:** Never came back and it ruined everything.
- Alex:** Yep, yep.
- Shohreh:** Crashed the economy. Housing. It's all over.
- Alex:** It's too soon. I thought we were keeping this playful [laughter].
- Shohreh:** Okay, I think it's time for your next outfit change.
- Alex:** Outfit change, okay.
- Shohreh:** Okay, so the next one that you knew about in advance is: bottomless mimosa brunch, which is perfect for Pride.

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**Alex:** It's perfect. Okay, um, we didn't discuss a timer, but, you know, you can just, like, imagine that there's, like, some intro music happening right now.

**Shohreh:** [Hums jeopardy music] Yeah, a little of that?

**Alex:** Yeah.

**Shohreh:** If I was fancy and had my computer, I would actually play it. But I don't. Okay, so while Alex is changing into their bottomless mimosa brunch look, we're gonna talk about glitter 'cause it's my favorite thing.

So, as I mentioned before, I have these little "wee doots," as a wonderful person on TikTok whose account I can't remember calls them. So, these are just, like, little face gems. Um, okay, so, you may have feelings about Amazon and ordering things on Amazon, and that's fine. But, if you're cool with ordering things on Amazon, on Amazon, you can get a pack of these face gems in basically every color for real cheap. And that's what I did. And let me show you a close-up of what these look like [shows gems to camera].

So this is what one little set looks like. So you can see the gems come in three different sizes. And I use the big ones the most because the other ones are a little bit harder to place, but you can use these too. This is another one of my favorite ways to just make something look like I tried a lot harder than I did, because it's just a matter of taking it off the thing and sticking it on your face.

So, this is one of my favorite places to put them, is here in the corners. They also look really cute, like, directly under your eye in the center, or

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in the corner here. Um, I've put them all along my eyebrow, above the eyebrow, under the eyebrow. There's so many different ways you can use these. And because you can buy a pack that comes with, like, a fuck ton of gems in all the different colors, I think I have one to match pretty much everything.

You can get, like, more fancy ones too. Like, I got these ones from Dolls Kill once upon a time when I shopped there that are different shapes. Like, these are good for festivals and stuff like that. But mostly, I like to use these little ones. And again, like, I could have done nothing else to my eyes except put on eyeliner and just put these on, and it just makes it look like I tried way harder than I did. So, highly recommend face gems.

Um, the other thing I wanted to talk to y'all about is, um, putting some glitter in the corner of your eye. So I'm gonna get really close. You can see I have some piece-y glitter right here in the corner, which just looks really cool. Um, so, a more pricey brand is the Lemonhead LA brand. A lot of the drag queens use this. It's really, really good. It's nice and wet and it's very spreadable. I have this in, like, this is the red one I was saying I like to do if I do it on my lips. This is the one I use for that, it's perfect. They also have some ones I just ordered that have more like confetti or bigger pieces.

If you want something cheaper, ColourPop has these too. Um, this one has little moons and stars in it and they're super cute. These are a little bit more dry to apply, so they're not as good as the Lemonhead ones, but they have some really beautiful ones and it's far cheaper than the

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Lemonhead ones. So if you want something on a discount, then these glitters are what I recommend.

Ah, we're back!

**Alex:** We made it!

**Shohreh:** We're back.

**Alex:** We made it.

**Shohreh:** We're talking about glitter.

**Alex:** I heard. Will you be posting this to your page?

**Shohreh:** Yes, yes, this will be posted to my page. And also, this is gonna be posted to my blog with a full transcript.

**Alex:** Love it. I was like, I have a friend who couldn't make it and so I wanted to ask. But I wanna catch some of this glitter while I was, like, throwing myself into the clothes that I'm wearing [Shohreh laughs lightly]. These tips, these jams.

**Shohreh:** Okay, so this is bottomless mimosa brunch. Let's hear it. Let's hear about this look.

**Alex:** Yes. Um, this top came into my life. I love it so much. I got this at, um, I'm gonna forget the name—oh, Squaresville in L.A. Um, it's my, like, probably one of my favorite places to go thrifting. It is, I believe, in Los Feliz, and it's just—literally, I was meeting up with somebody, I was there, like, ten minutes early, and I was like, I'm just gonna pop in. Like, I hadn't gotten to go yet. I was like, I love this place. I, like, kind of

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know the sections that, like, I do well in, you know, like, I find stuff that I really like. And I was just, like, at this rack and I'm like, beep, beep, beep, beep, and I saw this, and I'm like, okay, wait. We've got shoulder pads. Check. We've got floral. Check. Polka dots, check. And then, it's just, like, it's just sheer.

**Shohreh:** It's sheer. I love it so much.

**Alex:** And I'm like, I love all of those things.

**Shohreh:** It's such a cute shirt.

**Alex:** Thank you. And then we've got, um, I'm, like, really struggling with my angles here. I've got my, like, mom, you know, kind of Levi's moment that I've been enjoying to pair with these. And then just some pearls. Some sensible brunch pearls. I recently bought some of these for a shoot, and I was, like, trying to be more is more. And then I was like, oh, actually, like, this is something I can do. Um, Andrew, my roommate, got me this really beautiful pearl necklace, which I also like wearing as a bracelet, like I have on. These are, um, I would recommend, maybe? I feel like I have—I'm figuring out they, like, weigh my glasses down.

**Shohreh:** Yes. Yeah.

**Alex:** Or they make them extra heavy. But I just enjoy the, like, you know.

**Shohreh:** I think they're so cute for if you wear glasses and, you know, a lot of times I have people complain when they wear glasses every day, you can't see, like, the eye looks and stuff as much because it's hidden behind the glasses, so it can be really frustrating. So I think that's a

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really fun way to accessorize, like, the thing that you wear on your face all the time. To be like, look, I'm just gonna make it look a little bit different. I'm sure they have a billion kinds of those, ones that are sparkly and ones that are different colors and stuff. So, that's just another fun way to accessorize.

Or, like, maybe you're someone who doesn't have your ears pierced, right, you don't want, like, something more permanent. That's a great way to do it temporarily, too.

**Alex:** Yeah, exactly. I have this pair that I tried wearing earlier, and I feel like, um, the equivalent of your, like, you were saying with your, uh, the, like, red lipstick where you're like, I'm not eating or drinking. I was wearing this pair earlier, and I don't know if you'll be able to see, it's got this cute pink flower.

**Shohreh:** Mhm, that's pretty.

**Alex:** And so they kind of, like, dangle from here. And when I'm walking, they just, like, get stuck in my hair with every step.

**Shohreh:** Constant.

**Alex:** So, um, if you put them on once you arrive where you are [laughs lightly], you know, perch, and then accessorize, those might be cute. Because, you know, it's a cute, delicate gold. A lot of these on Etsy, you know, I love—I love an Etsy moment. I love giving, you know, a little small business some coins. And yeah. This is, I feel like—I feel like if you're catching on at this point, you know, some kind of shoulder pad.

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If feel like, two of the three so far, sheer and chest hair [Shohreh laughs]. I'm pretty—I'm a simple girl, you know?

**Shohreh:** I need more sheer in my life. I'm always, like, so enamored with all of your cute sheer looks and your dedication to having good air flow, you know?

**Alex:** [Laughs lightly] Thank you. [Shohreh laughs] Yes. The next time somebody asks me why I love sheer so much, I'm gonna use that: I'm dedicated to good air flow. It's not that I'm just being slutty and wanna show off my chest hair or my body, I'm just trying to stay ventilated.

**Shohreh:** It can be both.

**Alex:** It's both.

**Shohreh:** It's practical and slutty. Like, what's better than that?

**Alex:** I'm practically slutty, I think is what [Shohreh laughs]—

**Shohreh:** Aren't we all a little practically slutty?

**Alex:** Well, you know. How about you? What is your—for bottomless mimosa lunch, what kind of zhuzh do you like to give?

**Shohreh:** Okay, so for a bottomless mimosa brunch, it depends on, like, how late we're brunching, right? If it's, like, a true queer brunch, so we're starting noon or later, then that—I'll wake up with enough time to do something. But, the same sort of thing, it's like, unless I'm really dedicated...maybe if it was drag brunch, then I'd probably wake up early and be like, I will do the whole thing. If it's just, like, kind of, you

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know, regular brunch, it's more low-key, I'm not going to do as much with the face.

Um, but, you know, I want something casual. First of all, I love brunch. So I like to have room. I'm not gonna wear something super tight to brunch because I'm like, I wanna be able to, like, eat and breathe and not feel like I can't, you know, breathe anymore. So, something like—which is why what you're wearing is perfect, right? It's nice and flowy. So, something that's a little more flowy.

I really like the accessories, um, in the morning. So, earrings are, like, one of my go-to. I'm not wearing anything super interesting right now. I have these ones that kind of, um, these go back, which is cool. But I love—it's so interesting to me because when I was growing up, I was, like, known for my earrings when I was in high school. And at the time, where was I buying my earrings? Let's see: Hot Topic, Claires, The Icing. That's where I was getting my earrings.

But I always had, just like, I mean, these are ridiculous. Like, these dangly, I had ones that had, like, two dice on them. Um, I had—my favorite is that I did not even play guitar, but I absolutely had some, like, white guitar pick earrings that said "rebel" on them.

**Alex:** You've gotta let the people know, yes.

**Shohreh:** [Laughing lightly] Gotta let the people know. Be like, I don't know how to use this, but it's fine.

**Alex:** Yeah.

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**Shohreh:** Um, so I always was really big into earrings at that time. Then I went to college and kind of backed off from earrings a little bit. And one of the reasons was because I cut my hair a lot shorter. I had it in a Beckham bob for a number of years, and the pieces in the front were, like, thin, and so the earrings would always just, like, get into my hair. And so I stopped wearing, like, longer, fun, dangly earrings.

Then I grew my hair out and I was like, I wanna go back to wearing cute earrings. So, the last couple of years, I feel like that's been—I've really been increasing my earrings collection. I also really like to support the small business earring makers, whether that's on Etsy or they have their own shops. I'm always looking for places online where I can find, um, fun stuff. 'Cause it's just like, you can throw an earring with almost everything. With your hair up or down, it's cute. So I, like, literally I just ordered five new pairs from Etsy today [Alex laughs lightly]. Like, you know what? I need some earrings, and so I ended up just purchasing. So, that's one of my faves.

**Alex:** I was gonna say, I love, like, Etsy, and like, Depop. I feel like...I don't know. I mean, you mentioned earlier, like, having feelings about shopping on Amazon. I feel like I'm working to, like, divest. I think it, like, came into our lives and it was, like, so easy, you know. Like, literally there's so much there that, like, I know the temptation is, like, you know, this party is coming up, there's a theme, I need something last minute.

And I like Etsy and Depop as like, you've gotta put a little extra time in. You've gotta have a little extra forethought 'cause it's gonna take a

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little while to ship. But I just always feel like the payoff is bigger because there's, like—the niche, the nichery of the niche on those. You really can be, like, I want a guitar pick that says "rebel." I want dice. Like, they've got it. You just have to look. So, it's been really fun to, like, find that those things exist elsewhere and, like, don't—even if you're, like, if you have medium feelings about Amazon, somebody's, like, trying to make an extra buck and you could probably help them out. You know what I mean?

**Shohreh:** Yeah. Right.

**Alex:** I love doing the—just get a little stoned, you know, scroll. [Shohreh laughs lightly] If you're looking for something, hit me up. I love this, like, adornment challenge has been really fun to think about. Like, if I were to, like, do this bigger scale, if we had a party where it was, like, this is the theme, I would love to kind of source everything more second-hand, or like, small batch. I think that that feels good.

**Shohreh:** This would actually be a really fun party idea though, right? Where you basically, like, come up with a few looks and everybody has to do quick changes throughout the night?

**Alex:** Yes, yes. Like, a musical chairs, just kind of like, speed dating. You know, all of the sudden you just hear, like, there's gotta be some kind of jingle or song.

**Shohreh:** Yes, yeah, you hear the bell or whatever and then you know it's time and everyone, like, scatters.

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- Alex:** Maybe any time a specific song comes on the playlist, you're like, oh shit, we've gotta change again.
- Shohreh:** Oh, I like this. Do I need to book a flight to SF so we can throw this party? [Laughs lightly]
- Alex:** Yeah. Yes. You didn't have to say anything else, I'm like, yes, come visit.
- Shohreh:** Perfect. Um, okay, so I feel like we should have your last change.
- Alex:** Yes. Oh my gosh, I'm so excited. While you tell me, I'm gonna try to get off this bracelet.
- Shohreh:** Oh, go for it.
- Alex:** Yeah, 'cause these pearls, they might be on. So, tell me, what's the last category? Give it to me; I'm ready.
- Shohreh:** Okay, so, just a reminder to everybody, Alex knew the first three categories of looks. I have a fourth one that you do not know and that you're gonna have to come up with the look like this [snaps fingers several times].
- Alex:** On the spot.
- Shohreh:** Okay, so my final look is very timely. Your look, if you were going to the San Francisco Pride Parade.
- Alex:** Oh my god. Mmm.
- Shohreh:** [Singing] Whatcha gonna do? Alright, go!
- Alex:** Go!

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**Shohreh:** Alright, Alex is gone, so I'll tell you more makeup secrets [Alex and Shohreh laugh].

**Alex:** [From off camera] No secrets for Alex!

**Shohreh:** You don't get any! Um, okay, so one of the other things that I wanted to talk to y'all about is a new discovery. And we're gonna say shout-out to my good friend Ally of Girl Gang fame, uh, for this recommendation. So this is a palette of wet liners for doing, um, different eyeliner looks. And, let me open it, 'cause it'll be easier. So, this is from a company called Glisten, and the way these eyeliners work is basically when you get them wet is how you get the color to go on your eyeliner brush.

And so, I'm actually wearing it underneath my eye, this, like, kind of maroonish-purple color under my eye is this wet eyeliner. Um, if you like the kind of graphic looks that are really big right now through *Euphoria* and other stuff, I haven't delved into that as much, but those looks, like this is the kind of thing that you would use for that. And so you can buy all of these different colors. They have split pans, which is where the pan is split in half, so you get multiple colors. I literally just ordered several more because I like these so much.

And this is another way to make it look like you tried a lot harder than you did, which, if you're sensing a theme, is one of my favorite things, is how can I make my makeup look awesome without trying very hard? So, if you have an eyeliner brush and you have one of these, all you have to do, is you can just do an eyeliner line underneath in a color. And that automatically makes your eye pop more. It just looks really cool. Um, you can do your regular eyeliner with this too, or you can add just, like,

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some dots around it. Like, kind of what I've done with the gems, you can do that with this kind of wet liner as well. So, it's just another way to add a pop of color, have a little fun with it.

And then the one other thing that I wanted to show y'all, 'cause people always ask me about what I like to use for eyeshadow, and I have a lot of different ones, but the most consistent brand that I get my eyeshadow palettes from is ColourPop. They're inexpensive, and the colors are excellent. And, like, they blend well, and they show up really well, regardless of skin tone. Like, they have the examples on there. So I use two of their huge palettes. This one has a hair on it. This is Fade Into Hue. This is their rainbow palette. Look at that. I love this palette; I use it all the time. And then the other one I love, 'cause we were talking about skin tone earlier, jewel tones look really good on my skin. So, they have this palette called Play It Jewel. This is all jewel tones.

So, I have a billion more palettes than just these. But you could do a lot with these two alone. And they're—for that amount of colors, like, very affordably priced, I think, as far as makeup goes. So, those would be some of my other favorites.

And then the only other thing I'll mention is highlight. So, one of the other ways to really easily kind of elevate your makeup look is you wanna do highlight on your cheeks. And there's a lot of different ways to do it. But I really like the Fenty Beauty ones. So, this is, uh, their Killawatt one. It's like a glittery pink, it's what I'm wearing right now. You can see that here. And then, over this, I actually did one of those Lemonhead LA, um, glitters I mentioned. So, this is a holographic. So I

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just put some holographics here. You can see how it just adds this really pretty shine on top of the pink glitter that I was already wearing. Uh, and that's just another way to very quickly make your face look fancy.

I've done the piece-y ones I was mentioning, too. Like, this one has the bigger pieces. This one has, like, stars and moons. I've done that across my cheeks, too. That's a little more, like, I'm going to a show, or a festival, or the Pride Parade, which Alex is getting dressed for right now [Alex giggles off camera], than maybe, like, I'm just going to the grocery store. But you do you. If you wanna get fancy for the grocery store, by all means, I just don't have the time to do makeup looks for the grocery store in my life. Uh, I save it for me.

So those are kind of the main ones. I'm so glad I got to share all of those with y'all. Um, and obviously y'all can DM me or comment on this once it's posted. I'm happy to send you links and recs and all of that good stuff.

[Alex comes back on camera] Hello! Oh my god! [Alex laughs] Shut uuuuuuppppp!

**Alex:** My friend literally just gave me this dress, like, before I got here, and I'm like, I don't know how I'm gonna style it. But I just thought, let's just do it. Let's bring her out.

**Shohreh:** Okay, we need a little twirl. This looks so cute!

**Alex:** Thank you. It's, uh, it's giving—it's very, you know.

**Shohreh:** Look at that. Oh, the beading!

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- Alex:** I like this really absurd sleeve, thank you.
- Shohreh:** It's, like, very jester-y. You know what I'm talking about?
- Alex:** A little bit. Yes. It's—we've got, like. It's pretty shapeless.
- Shohreh:** It is. You can belt it, for sure.
- Alex:** You would what?
- Shohreh:** You could belt it.
- Alex:** Yes, I could belt it. It feels—I feel, it's like, kind of in the, not Golden Girls, but I feel like there's definitely a category of my adornment [Shohreh laughs] that feels a little, you know, I feel, uh, like, I could be the Golden Girls', like, queer neighbor. Where I'm like, are you not wearing that anymore? Can I have it?
- Shohreh:** It feels like, yeah, like, elevated gay Golden Girls. Like, that's what I'm getting.
- Alex:** Yes, yes. [Shohreh laughs] Let me see if there's somewhere different I can set this one. The sun is, like, really giving me the business right now.
- Shohreh:** How rude.
- Alex:** I know, how dare. Is this helping? How are we doing?
- Shohreh:** Yeah, there you go.
- Alex:** I love all of the—the Rihanna shout-outs today. I'm like, where's our coin? When are we—
- Shohreh:** I know.

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**Alex:** When are we Fenty models?

**Shohreh:** Right? Rihanna needs to give us some coin for all the Fenty shout-outs [laughter].

**Alex:** Yes, exactly. Yeah. This, I mean, this is a loud pink, which I really love.

**Shohreh:** Yes.

**Alex:** Um, you know, we're still keeping the sheer theme [laughs lightly].

**Shohreh:** Because of course we are.

**Alex:** Because of course. Um, yeah. I feel like—I don't know that I'll wear this here. It's kinda hot.

**Shohreh:** Yeah.

**Alex:** It's also, like, heavy. Can you, like, do you hear?

**Shohreh:** Yeah, 'cause of all those beads.

**Alex:** It's a lot. I mean, it's intricate.

**Shohreh:** It is intricate.

**Alex:** I mean, I do love, like, wow.

**Shohreh:** It almost looks like flames, or, like, uh, beetles on top.

**Alex:** Right? A little bit. Yeah. So, this is a maybe. But I just figured for the spectacle for this conversation, I felt like that could be kind of...

**Shohreh:** Perfect. I like it. I love that for Pride. This is—I actually would wear this to Pride, what I'm wearing right now.

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**Alex:** Absolutely. You look incredible.

**Shohreh:** Thank you. This, um, so I have this—I just took some pictures in this outfit, actually, when I did a recent photoshoot for Pride stuff. Um, so, I like—this is actually just, like, I'll show you, like, a tube top. So it, like, stops here. And I have this black sheer—because we love sheer—skirt that you've probably seen a lot of people wear at festivals. It has, like, the two slits, so it's very, like, warrior princess, or like space warrior. Uh, and I wore it, and this, I wore it to DragCon when I went to DragCon. And it was, like, a really fun look. And it's also great for, like, if you're doing outdoor things 'cause I can wear, like, black combat boots with it, and, like, that looks like it fits the theme without me having to wear fancy shoes. And I'm a big fan of it.

And, yeah, if I'm going to Pride, I would probably make my eye look way more rainbow-y if I were going to Pride. And I might do some more obvious face things for that. But, besides that, the outfit itself, absolutely I would wear this to Pride.

**Alex:** Yeah, I love it. You look like just a rainbow disco ball.

**Shohreh:** All I ever want—that's all I ever want to look like.

**Alex:** Yes, that's all I ever wanted.

**Shohreh:** A rainbow disco ball. Yeah, if y'all can't tell, I clearly love glitter and shiny things. If you don't know me, if you already know me, you definitely know that about me. But if you're new here, um, this is why I've shown you face gems and glitter and shiny things over the course of this. I haven't even shown the fact—I don't use these glitters as

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much. Let me try to show this without dumping them out. These are—  
[shows a giant container of different colored tubes of glitter to the camera]

**Alex:** Shohreh.

**Shohreh:** —all glitter tubes—

**Alex:** Wow.

**Shohreh:** —of just, like, there’s different shapes, like stars and hearts, and, like, a million colors. This was another of my, like, long time ago Amazon purchases where I bought all of these as a collective thing. Um, I now tend to use more makeup glitters that are really intended to go on your face. These, less so. But, with some glitter glue, if I really wanna go for it, I will use those, um, as well. So, I just, like, have an entire section of glittery things, uh, when I’m doing my makeup.

Which, you know, we’re talking about queer adornment, we’re talking about queer expression. It’s interesting because I actually wasn’t super into makeup pre-pandemic. Like, I did some things, and I had some stuff. But my makeup has really expanded a lot, uh, from the pandemic starting, because when I was inside, we couldn’t go anywhere, right? I wasn’t getting to go out and show anything. So one of the things that I did at that time was I got on TikTok personally.

Now I have a professional TikTok and I’ve kinda moved away from doing a personal TikTok, but at that time, I was just doing a TikTok for fun. And so, I was like, you know what? I have nowhere to go. I have a whole closet of clothes. Like, I just wanna do makeup for me.

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**Alex:** Glitter, yeah.

**Shohreh:** Yeah, so I just, like, started—that's when I started doing a little bit more makeup looks, was kinda getting into it, and started expanding, like, my eyeshadow. Like, I literally didn't know how to do an eyeliner wing, as recently as, like, two-and-a-half years ago. Like, I would just do, just draw on the top.

**Alex:** Yeah.

**Shohreh:** Um, I did not know how to blend, like, eyeshadow. Like, all of the things that I've just shown y'all, like, a look like this, I could not have done two-and-a-half years ago. I didn't have the tools and I did not have the skills. And when I got really into makeup was when it was literally just for me. When all the sudden, I was like, you know what? This, to me, feels like play. And, like, when I sit down to do a makeup look, like, yeah, obviously I like that other people like it, but it's for me. Because I'm like, I wanna do something cool. I wanna do something fun with colors. I wanna play with glitter. Like, I just wanna do this for me. And I love to take photos after I'm done to just, like, have my little selfies where I can look back at all the different looks that I've done and see how I've improved over time.

And it's just a really nice, creative outlet. Like, my face is the canvas, and, like, all of these are my art supplies. And I've always been, like, a crafty, artsy person, and so being able to have makeup be that for me now, and it's really become that, especially, like, since the pandemic started, but even over the last year, I would say, I've really improved a

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lot, um, with what I do and kind of trying to understand a little bit more complex things that you can do and what works for my face.

'Cause that's a whole thing. Like, everybody has a different eye shape and a different face shape. So, you watch a tutorial and it's, like, I have, like, deep-set eyes that are more hooded. And, like, you watch a tutorial with someone who doesn't have that, and you try to make it work on your eye, and you're like, oh, this is not working. It's not the same.

**Alex:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Shohreh:** Yeah, so you have to, like, figure out those things as well. Like, what is your facial structure? And, what colors, like, look awesome on you or on your skin tone? So, that's been, like, a fun journey. But I have really enjoyed that. And I think with the queerness aspect of it, is, there's, like, when you're straight, there's just, like, a lot more, uh, pressure to, like, have your makeup look a certain way, to dress a certain way, like, to be within certain trends. And I think the queer community is so much more expansive with, like, what you can do. And, like, what people are intrigued by and what people are experimenting with. Like, nobody is gonna question if I walk out of the house, you know, with face gems on me and, like, glitter on my stuff if I'm going into queer spaces. Like, no one's gonna be, like, oh, you're overdressed for this. They're gonna be like, yasss fuckin' queen! [Alex laughs lightly]

So, that is nice, having that freedom, too. To be like, I can just do this 'cause it's fun. Because it makes me feel good. And 'cause, like, I know, like the community is down for whatever it is that I wanna do. Um, and I

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love it. So, that, for me, has been a really fun thing about makeup. You know, I'd love to hear from you, just with your fashion and the different ways you've been exploring that over the last few years, what your experiences have been like.

**Alex:** Yeah. I mean, just hearing your journey around it feels like it taps so much into that disability justice principle of anti-capitalism, right? Where you're, like, I'm doing this because its value and its worth is for me. You know, you're not doing it 'cause you're trying to book a gig or, you know...

**Shohreh:** Yeah, no one pays me to do this, unfortunately [laughs].

**Alex:** Right, right, totally. But the worth is just there to do it, right? And I think anti-capitalism, as a means of disrupting all of this violence, is, like, for you to just find joy inherent in play, is really beautiful. And I think that also, then, it exudes—it's exuberant, right? Like, I think people are drawn to, or it just reads, right? You're not doing it to perform joy. Like, the joy is clear.

And so I think that's something that I also try to orient towards, is, like, how am I having fun? Like, how do I...one of the things that I think guides me is, like, how do I become a caricature of myself? [Shohreh laughs lightly] You know, like, what is me, what is Alex to an 11? Glamputee is kind of that in and of itself. It's like an invitation—you know, I've said this, it's like a call to action for myself in terms of adornment. Like, I can't show up looking drab to an event if I'm calling myself Glamputee. Like, [Shohreh laughs lightly] I kind of created

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almost like, you know, an accountability structure for myself to really, like, show up.

Um, so I think that certainly plays a part. I joked with a friend, Eduardo, today. I was like, ask yourself before you leave the house, like, am I giving the people what they want? [Shohreh laughs] You know, like, there's something that we all have that's really special. Or some things—and I just want us all to, like, turn that up to an 11 and just really be in that. And so, playing with gender, playing with gender expression. I think about, uh, there's a really dope org here in The Bay called Gender Spectrum. And it's for gender expansive youth, K-12, and they do this summer conference, and I volunteered for a few years.

And one year they were like, they created, like, a gender map, right? Or the facilitator was like, we're just talking about gender identity, and so, where on the map do you fall? Right? And like, basically invited the youth to, like, I'm in the, like, masculine mountains [Shohreh laughs], or, like, you know, you just put something on the map. And one of the kids—like, this is on, like, a white board and there's a piece of paper—and one of the kids takes the marker and, like, not on the map, but somewhere off in the distance puts, like, I'm on this planet! You know, like, I think that just immediately spoke to me of, like, the gender universe. Or the gender multiverse.

Like, queerness is just so abundant and limitless that I think anytime we are, like, tapping into that power, of like, infinity, you know? There are just so many ways that we can adorn ourselves and express ourselves. I

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think that is, like, it's electrifying. I think we all kind of, like, feed off of that. Or we, like, amplify each other's excitement.

And so, I think—I just ask myself, like, how am I...maybe I don't think these things go together, but I'll try it anyway. Maybe I'm, you know, wearing three too many accessories, but I'm gonna try it anyway. You know? I'm just gonna do it. I'm working really hard to be in spaces with community and people who, like, even if, from a style perspective, like, maybe it's a 9 and not a 10, you know what I mean? [Shohreh laughs lightly] I'm with people who are like, I see that you feel great. I see that you are embodied, right?

I think that's another thing, is like, if your adornment or your self-expression is limiting your ability to be embodied and present 'cause you feel like you're performing, you don't feel comfortable where you're at, then it's kind of like counterintuitive. Um, and so to be in spaces where I can tell that people can tell that I'm feeling myself, and, like, they're affirming and validating that, like, I'm trying to work towards embodiment. I'm trying to work towards being excited to be seen and perceived, and, like, shared publicly. And so anything that I can, like, wear, adorn, play, like, anything that adds to that is, like, you know.

**Shohreh:**

Yeah. Well, I think something you said, as well, about, you know, maybe it's a 9 instead of a 10, or, like, it's too many accessories. Like, all of this stuff is—if you go into it for the reason of, like, play and I'm trying to find, like, what feels good to me and what is fun, like, all of that is fine. If I had gone into starting my, like, true makeup journey at the

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beginning of the pandemic expecting that my face would look like this when I did it, I would have quit immediately.

**Alex:** Yeah.

**Shohreh:** Because it didn't. Like, all of this, this is a skill, right? Like, all of these things, like learning how to put together an outfit, or to do makeup, or to accessorize, like, there's a bit of skill involved and, like, figuring out, like, what are the right products and brand for you? And what are the shapes and stuff that you like? And, also just learning how to do it.

And so I think also being kind to ourselves when we're playing with new things and figuring it out and not expecting that, like, it's gonna look maybe exactly the way that you pictured it, and knowing that the process and the part where you got to play, that can be enjoyable regardless of if you're not 100% happy with whatever the final thing is. And knowing, like, you learned from whatever you did. Like all the times I did my eyeliner wrong taught me how to eventually do it right, the way that I want it to look. So...and I wouldn't be here without that. Because it's very hard to get these things right on the very first try, even though we often have that expectation for ourselves.

**Alex:** Totally.

**Shohreh:** So I just also wanna point that out to people, when you're trying new things, like, this stuff takes time. Have respect for the skill that's required to do a lot of these fun fashion things. And, like, make sure that you're having fun while you're doing it because, like, it's gonna, take time to get to maybe where you want it to be. And that's okay. For

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me, that's the best part. I love looking back and being, like, I couldn't have done this two years ago, but now I can. Like, how awesome is that?

**Alex:** I used to be an American Eagle devotee [Shohreh laughs]. The pinnacle, like, I am feeling, like, money. You know what I mean? So, like, the journey is big. The journey is long. I feel like...

**Shohreh:** And never-ending!

**Alex:** Yeah, 15 years from now, you and I are gonna look at how we're adorning ourselves now and be, like, potentially just mind blown with the growth. So, everybody who's on that journey, I see you. I support you. I feel you. Like, humble beginnings all around, for sure.

**Shohreh:** Yes, exactly. Alright, well, Alex, this has been so fun. I'm so glad that we got to do this. I've had a blast. I've enjoyed seeing all your outfits. Um, quick, while we sign off, if there's anything you want to say about your work, or plug, or any of that good stuff, please do.

**Alex:** Oh, thank you. Um, if you're in the Bay Area, um, Thursday, I will be walking in a fashion show, talking about adornment.

**Shohreh:** Work! [snaps fingers]

**Alex:** Yes. Impulse Euphoric Pride Fashion Show. I just posted the info on my page. Um, and then this weekend, anybody can tune into the Fresh Meat Festival. Um, myself and Lotus Boy, who is a trans, non-binary, Chinese-American, disabled drag king in the Bay Area, who I adore, we filmed our own, like, kind of Trixie & Katya talk show featuring three

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other, um, queer, trans, indigenous, two-spirit, um, Black and Brown, disabled, like, drag artists. Like, it just was, like, this whole thing that we put together. So you can just screen it remotely anywhere, and I would love—I'll post about it tonight. I'd love if people could check it out. We put a lot of work into it. And it's, like, the most high-production thing I've been a part of ever. Like, there were two cameras, there's an editor.

**Shohreh:** Ooh, she fancy!

**Alex:** Fancy!

**Shohreh:** I love that. I can't wait to watch that. I'm gonna look out for your post about that because that sounds super fun and up my alley. Um, for me, y'all, as I mentioned, I'm a self-trust coach, primarily for queer folks. I'm most active here on Instagram, as well as over on TikTok. I have a podcast called *Conjuring Up Courage* where I release bi-weekly episodes and tons of great content on there. And then, um, I do one-on-one work with people, and I also run a group coaching program called *Follow Your Arrow*, which is a year-long program to help people develop their self-trust skills. And it's about to open for enrollment; the next cohort starts on August 8<sup>th</sup>. So I think, like, next week I'm gonna open the sales page and people can start popping in there. So, I'm super excited about that. Haven't had a cohort start in quite a while. So, check it out!

Alright, thank you everyone who was here. This will be posted to my blog, if you hopped on late, and there will be a transcript as soon as my transcriptionist finishes it. I'll make an announcement in the next couple

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of days. We want this to be fully accessible. And it will also be posted to Instagram.

So, thank you for spending time with us. Thank you, Alex, for spending time with me. This is such a fun Pride tradition that we've started. And I love you, and I hope you have a wonderful evening.

**Alex:** I love you, thank you for having me. Bye y'all!

**Shohreh:** Byeeee!