



Queer in Review

It is December, the year of 20gayteen is coming to it's end, it is time to remember and reflect on what this past year has brought - be it happy memories, some troubles to grow from, major life changes or personal development.

For this newsletter, we have asked you, the members of Stonewall Japan to share your personal stories, struggles or resolutions with us. So let us take a trip down memory lane...

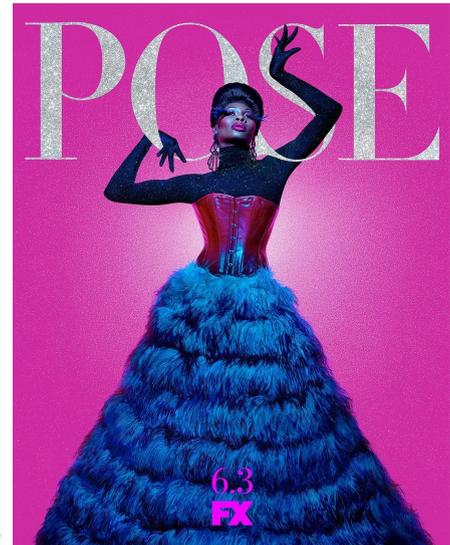
2018 brought the random encounter followed by the blossoming of a fantastic relationship with a wonderful girl. A girl who believed that she could be loved until she was in the correct body. A relationship far removed from all the turbulence and negativity of the past; something wholesome and entirely positive. 2018 also brought me moving to Japan and having to leave her behind, but the relationship spans the distance and time difference to prove to the uncertain that it is by no means impossible to maintain a healthy, strong, supportive long distance relationship! My one and only New Year's Resolution is to see her in person before the end of 2019 to let her know in the flesh how grateful I am that she is still with me.

- Deanna



France won the Football World Cup in the finale against Croatia. It was their second win, the first one being in 1998.

POSE is a drama created by Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuck, and Steven Canals. The series is set in 1987-88 New York City and takes on issues like HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and queer love, giving them a spotlight and an opportunity for development. The show's cast consists of primarily POC and features trans women of color, like MJ Rodriguez, Indya Moore, and Dominique Jackson, as lead characters. The show has been renewed for a second season.



@IMDB

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7562112/>

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/lists/pose-stars-why-fx-show-feels-like-a-form-activism-1161486/item/pose-stars-why-fx-show-dominique-jackson-1161491>



The #metoo movement led to an open discussion of consent, sexual harassment and abuse in daily life. Thousands of people shared their stories.

This year one of my greatest memories was being approached by a staff member during Asexual Awareness Week. I'm not officially out at school but I took the time to post about things on my Facebook. I have a few teachers/staff members as friends. This staff member took the time to read it and approached me to tell me she was so excited to learn about asexuality and congratulated me for posting about it. I was so happy for such a positive response.

This past year for me was about cataloging memories and practicing positivity. Next year I want to do more for the people around me, more gestures of kindness to spread joy.

- Julianne S.

Drag Race Thailand is a reality competition based of **RuPaul's Drag Race**. The show gives a platform for drag in Asia and has brought it to the global scale. Art Arya and Pangina Heals serve as hosts for the show which follows ten queens as they compete to become "Thailand's Next Drag Superstar".

<http://www.newnownext.com/drag-race-thailand-us-premiere-date-trailer/04/2018/>



@khaosodenglish



Natural disasters took a toll on many people affected, but also proved how humans will help each other in times of need.

Chella Man is a twenty year old, "deaf, genderqueer, queer artist, currently transitioning on testosterone". Chella has a large social media presence on platforms like Instagram and Youtube. He frequently collaborates with his girlfriend MaryV. 2018 saw Chella create more representation for other individuals out there. He has provided insight into transitioning, being deaf, and art.

<https://www.them.us/contributor/chella-man>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa1vUXV2WMRobPo-ZfEeRhq>



Instagram@chellaman

Resolutions, like promises, have always evaded me. Both seem oddly transient, lasting for only as long as my fickle heart desires, as long as the context within which I assured them still has some meaning. So I find it surprising that this new year, I find myself making bucket-lists with never-ending dreams and hard choices. This year, I discovered several things about myself. I discovered that heartbreak and missing someone comes in waves, crashing down violently upon the calm serenity of a moment. I discovered that despite my adamant denial, my sexuality is still something I'm struggling with. I discovered that the shame from the aftermath of coming out never really left and it took moving to another country where I had only myself, to come to terms with it. But, this year, has also been about reconciliation. I learnt that mourning the loss of a lover takes time- sometimes, I still see the bend of her nose tickling my neck. I learnt that introspection is best judged when you're not constantly blaming yourself for things that spiralled out of control, yet taking accountability for the pain you've caused. I've learnt that being alone and finding yourself can be so, so terrifying, yet exhilarating, all at once. But most of all, I've realised that like the changing faces of the clouds, I too, am changing- slowly, subtly, without remarkable difference all at once. So I suppose, it's not so queer that I'm making New Year's Resolutions after all; I have a list in mind and the first one reads: Be happy.

- T.M.

Munroe Bergdorf is a “DJ, activist” and transgender. In 2017 she appeared in a beauty campaign for L’Oreal Paris as the first transgender model for the brand. Since L’Oreal Bergdorf has been in the public eye through talk shows, a documentary, and even working with the UK’s Labour Party. She is a prime example of the fact that trans women of color do a lot of heavy lifting in our community.



Instagram @munroebergdorf

<https://www.out.com/popnography/2018/7/30/5-times-munroe-bergdorf-shook-world>
<https://www.instagram.com/munroebergdorf/>



School shootings led to countless rallies and demonstrations for gun control. Many of these movements were led by students themselves.

Emma Gonzalez is a graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school and a survivor of the February 14th, 2018 shooting that took place at the high school. She identifies as bisexual and is Latinx of Cuban descent. Before the shooting Gonzalez was heavily involved with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at her school. After the shooting, Gonzalez along with other Stoneman Douglas students became activists for gun-control in the US and helped organize the **March for Our Lives** in Washington DC.



@outmagazine

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/politics/a18715714/prottesting-nra-gun-control-true-story/>
<https://www.out.com/out-exclusives/2018/11/14/out100-emma-gonzalez-newsmaker-year>

In general, younger generations have taken charge of their future and have actively protested for issues in their interests, ranging from LGBTQ+, environmental issues and women’s rights to racial rights.



<https://westlakefeatherduster.com/2018/05/22/year-in-review-what-2018-has-offered-so-far/>

Thank you all for 2018 and all the best wishes for the new year!