



PRESS KIT



Assigned Female at Birth

QUEER OWN VOICES

What it is: LGBTQ Docu-Dramedy Web Series

Subject: This hybrid narrative/documentary series tells the story of 30+ AFAB people fighting everything they've been taught about their bodies never being good enough.

Purpose: To speak to the outlier identities within the LGBTQ community, communities of color and intersectional feminist communities, providing representation to people whose stories are rarely told, and in their own words, creating empathy in a larger audience of viewers who has not yet heard these stories.



A LOVE LETTER TO OUR QUEER COMMUNITY

The 30+ characters depicted in AFAB, like the 50+ people interviewed to create the project, have been taught from birth that their bodies can never be good enough. Not able enough, not straight enough, not cis enough, not thin enough, not white enough, not gay enough, not femme enough, not butch enough, not young enough...the list goes on. All feel invisible—from the gender fluid Asian lesbian born with a fibular hemimelia disability to the blind ballet dancer, from the women fighting clinical depression to the rabbi on the spectrum who is also a cancer survivor, from the preschool teacher to the therapist with multiple personalities—they struggle to be seen.

Whether the prejudice they fight is ableism or racism, homophobia or misogyny, whether they seek healing from #metoo issues or disabilities they've had since birth, they reach for life with courage. They are bold, frightened, vulnerable and ridiculously strong. They are, above all things, woke.

They are the green-haired, tattooed, pierced people at Pride; the butch dyke in the wheelchair with the rainbow flag; the blonde, girly femme on the dance floor; the black two-spirit lesbian who runs diversity trainings; and the suburban mom who adopts a trans boi and helps him grow up free. They refuse to be defined by the ableist, homophobic, sexist culture that wages war on their bodies. They are the people pointing the way, finding new vocabularies and struggling to step out of every box that limits them into identities they name for themselves. And they do this, almost always, with humor.

The answers all these people seek don't come easily, if at all. They fail as often as they succeed; and are brave enough to refuse failure as a resting place. They are our community. They are the people who taught Lyrallen, in interview after interview, how deeply they needed to be seen. They are "stars floating alone in the universe." They have never seen their stories foregrounded in film, tv or web. AFAB changes this.



THE STORY: 3 QUEER FAMILIES



1.

Zander, Sofia, Phyllis and Melanie

Zander and Soifa are getting married...except they can't agree on what to wear or whether to have kids or much else. So will they make it to the altar?

Meanwhile, #metoo survivor Melanie, who can't get a date, has started therapy because she's SO jealous of her sibling.

As for Phyllis, their mother, she mostly takes Zander's side. No, Melanie says, she always takes Zander's side.

2. Carl and Makayla have been married for years. But now Carl has had a phalloplasty and wants to try out his new penis. And Makayla has lost her mother, so she's not in the mood for sex, and certainly not sex with a penis. Should she stay or should she go? He's her best friend. She's his best friend.

3. Daire and Bailey have been together for seven years. Bailey's obsessed with DIY and Bear Gryllis. A healed plural person, Daire saire spends their days providing therapy to the queer community. Should they get married? Can all Daire's personalities actually agree and make a decision?

As the main characters struggle, their queer community weighs in within documentary choruses that are interspersed throughout the series.

3 SEASONS



Assigned Female at Birth, available on OTV and YOUTUBE, began in 2020. Skye began interviewing queer people--AFAB and AMAB, and so the story took shape. By September filming commenced and the first episode was released in October.

Season 1

Zander and Sofia totter on the edge of breaking up, Melanie starts to finally talk about her childhood and loneliness and Phyllis tries to stay in denial. Meanwhile, Makayla starts to see Melanie's therapist, Carl and Zander bond over their masc identities and Daire take weeks to answer a proposal of marriage.

Season 2

Sofia moves out and goes to live with Makayla and Carl, Zander tries to win her back, while also pursuing having a baby, Melanie's struggles escalate to a dangerous level and Daire's personalities finally negotiate and engagement with Bailey, who is so nervous about them changing their mind that Bailey resorts to push tactics.

Season 3: JUST RELEASED

Zander and Sofia are broken up and grieving, which they both try to fix by going to speed dating. Meanwhile, both Carl and Makayla have grown interested in Sofia, which is driving her crazy. Daire and Bailey are married, but Daire feels cheated of a real wedding and Bailey is growing more possessive and neurotic, especially when Daire's ex shows up on the scene.

Documentary choruses on gender, Blackness, polyamory, ability and size occur througout.

ANOTHER COUNTRY PRODUCTIONS

SEASON ONE TEASER



A LYRALEN KAYE FILM



AFAB CREATOR SKYLAR LYRALEN KAYE FAE/THEY

Skylar Lyrallen Kaye, fae/they, AEA, SAG-AFTRA, MFA Sarah Lawrence College, is an award-winning writer, slam poet and solo performer as well as a professional actor. They have worked and lived with diverse communities, often creating theater for underrepresented people using their own stories.

Skye won the Meryl Streep funded Screenwriters Lab in 2015 with their first screenplay about a nonbinary radical and an Episcopal priest. Since then they have won 14 awards for *Assigned Female at Birth* including the 2021 NE Film Star Award. They have also won the Moth, the Boston Story Slam, the San Francisco Best in Fringe and Techie Best in Fringe. They've been a finalist in the Half the World Literati Award, the Black List Women in Film Lab, the Hollywood Soaring Solo Artist Award and participated in the Moth Grand Slam. They were also a finalist for the Mass Council of the Arts Awards and won the Stanley and Eleanor Lipkin Prize in Playwriting,. They were nominated for a Pushcart Prize in fiction and won the Boston Amazon Poetry Slam and Super Slam Finals.

They can be seen as Katherine Heigl's yoga-teacher-with-an-attitude in *27 Dresses*, and Sister Elizabeth in Martin Landau's last film, *Abe and Phil's Last Poker Game* among others.

They have been an out queer feminist, working for anti-racism and queer and women's rights since the 1990's. Skye believes that art is how we love the world and teach the zeitgeist a new direction. They are currently in pre-publication for their memoir, *Bachelorx*.

SEASON 3 TEASER

Born of the pandemic, Assigned Female at Birth cast and crew worked remotely for two full seasons, innovating like crazy to create scenes with actors in widely diverse locations. Season 3 brings them together in the same place, expanding the shot vocabulary. The sheer joy of connection rings through the speed dating comedy, Zander's struggles to find a partner, Melanie's relationship with asexuality and Daire confronting being out with their diagnosis while still providing therapy to the community.

Within the narrative, documentary choruses about parenting, polyamory, asexuality, blackness and spirituality lift the veil for the characters as they seek to deepen their lives.



CAST

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ASSIGNED FEMALE AT BIRTH



ZANDER, ZI/ZIR: MJ BIRD, THEY/THEM



MJ Bird is a non-binary trans actor. Recently graduated in Performing Arts from DeSales University, MJ is a Shakespearean trained actor. This is their first film.

SOFIA, SHE/HER: TINA D'ELIA SHE/HER

Tina D'Elia, SAG-AFTRA, she/her, is a mixed-race Latina lesbian/queer identified feminist artist and award-winning solo performer. She has appeared in *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *Knife Fight* and *Sense8*. She can be found in the Bay Area performing one of her solo shows such as the *Rita Hayworth* of this *Generation* or *Overlooked Latinas*.





MELANIE, SHE/HER: JULIET BOWLER SHE/HER

A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute, Juliet has worked extensively on stage and in film in New York and Boston. Film credits include Clear History, alt.sex, The Damned and the Dead, Influenced Women, and Game Day. Stage credits include Our Miss Brooks, Snapshots, Misery, The Knight Who Was Afraid of the Dark and Moliere's The Learned Ladies. She is an arts advocate and an advocate in the disabled community.



CARL, HE/HIM: JAMIE BLACK HE/HIM

Jamie Black, SAG /AFTRA, is a black trans man living in the Los Angeles area, where he can be seen doing stand up as well as performing in film. In his hometown of Chicago, he has performed in Holding Pattern, Gaff It Girl (TV Series), Superfreaks (TV Movie) and My Mama Said Yo Mama's a Dyke.

BAILEY, THEY/THEM: ALEX ALEXANDER, SHE/HER



Alex Alexander, SAG-Eligible, she/her, is a bisexual actor working in theater and film in both San Francisco and Boston. Her work is focused primarily on social justice theater on both coasts. She is an active member of the San Francisco Bay Area improv group Barewitness Films.

DAIRE, THEY/THEM: SKYLAR LYRALEN KAYE, FAE/THEY

Lyrallen Kaye, SAG-AFTRA, fae/they, is a non-binary, neurodivergent gender fluid fae living with a disability. They are an award-winning solo performer and professional actor. They have appeared in film and web in such productions as *27 Dresses*, *Abe and Phil's Last Poker Game*, *the Man at the Door*, *the Naturals*, *Mama's Boy*, *Withdrawl* and *Escape from the Night*. In theater, they have played queer characters as well as representing in *The Dutchman*, *Betrayal* and *The Seagull*, among others. Only in the last two years have they actually played a character of their own gender, and that in their solo show *My Preferred Pronoun Is We*, which won the San Francisco Best in Fringe in 2018.





**PHYLLIS, SHE/HER:
CARRIE GIBSON, SHE/HER**

Carrie Gibson, SAG-AFTRA, she/her, is an award-winning professional actor. She has spent over twenty years creating and touring plays throughout the United States and Canada on diversity and discrimination to educational institutions, major corporations, colleges and government agencies. She is the founding Artistic Director of two national touring theater companies. She is a professional actor, singer and voice over. Her favorite roles include telling David Boreanaz to move his ass on *Bones*, being a temp on *Superstore* who was too busy reading a novel to bother bagging customer's merchandise, and touring Norway as the mother of a psychic in a concert tour of an original Harald Zwart musical film.

SUPPORTING ACTORS



RENA BASKIN, SHE/HER
AND
BOBBIE STEINBACH, SHE/HER



GABRIELLE FILLOUX,
SHE/HER AS
SERENE



KP PYLES, THEY/HE
AS DALE



MICHAEL BLUNT,
THEY/HE AS JONAH



JYOTI DANIERE,
SHE/HER AS SAM

DIRECTOR
**SKYLAR LYRALEN
KAYE**, fae/they



DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY/
FILM EDITOR
PATRICK SNOW,
he/himn



PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
**AMBER
KRASINSKY**, she/her



GAFFTER, LINE PRODUCER, 1ST AD
CLAY NEUGER, he/
him



SOUND &
DIRECTOR'S
ASSISTANT

**NICK
STAPP**,
they/them



SOUND

**AMANDA
LOZADA**,
they/them



GAFFTER
**GRACIANNE
ELDENKRAMP**,
they/she

KAL ANDERSON,
he/they

2ND AD



DIVERSITY TEAM

Tina D'Elia, she/her



Tina D'Elia, she/her, SAG-AFTRA, Diversity Consultant, Sofia, Seasons 1, 2 & 3 is a mixed-race Latina lesbian/queer identified feminist artist and professional actor, casting director, screenwriter and award-winning solo performer. Tina received the Executive Producer and Trail Blazer Awards from the Equality International Film Festival (2015) for the diverse and authentic content in her work and her diverse casting work with communities of color and LGBTQ communities. www.tinadeliaconsulting.com

Amelia Lumpkin, she/her



Amelia Lumpkin, she/her, Diversity Consultant, Diamond, Seasons 1, 2 & 3, is a black woman collaborator based between Raleigh, NC, and Guadalajara, Mexico. She studied Theatre for social change at Davidson College (2013). Named a Williamson Trust Fellow, she designed her path in theatre administration with Boston's premier LGBT theatre organization, The Theater Offensive. She has also been the Summer Camp Manager for The Justice Theater Project's summer performance series for four years. She loves to use storytelling to bond affinity groups and bridge any divide.

Skylar Lyrallen Kaye, fae/they



Skylar Lyrallen Kaye, they/them/fae/faire, SAG-AFTRA, AEA, MFA Sarah Lawrence College, Creator/Show Runner/Daire, is a gender-fluid fae tomboy living with a PTSD disability. They have worked in communities of color, queer communities and for feminist organizations since 1990. Their work includes DEI representation at the Another Country theater from 2003-2012 as well as educational management helping students in the inner city failing schools to learn to read and write.

KEY FACTS

GENRE SUBCATEGORIES	LGBTQIA, Dramedy, Mockumentary	LENGTH	Web Series
SEASON 3: TOTAL RUNNING TIME	94 minutes	ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	English
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Another Country Production	PRODUCTION YEAR	2020-2023
PRODUCTION LOCATION	Salem & Beverly, Massachusetts	LANGUAGES	English

PRESS

series addresses grief, identity, and oppression

Assigned Female at Birth (AFAB) is the new web-series on YouTube which "weaves the stories, based on 31 interviews with POC, LGBTQ people, trans and non-binary people, people living with disabilities, seniors, cis gendered mothers and daughters"

Queer Jam
December 9, 2020 - 2 min read

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NOVEMBER 21, 2020 | BY CURVE STAFF

Assigned Female At Birth: A Web Series About Some Bodies

WEB SERIES



Another Country Productions released Episode 1 of *Assigned Female at Birth* on YouTube on October 25, 2020

Early in the pandemic award-winning writer Lyrallen Kaye began participating in on-line festivals presented on Zoom, YouTube and Facebook Live, as theater and film artists did all over the world. In the process, Kaye met Clare Solly, who suggested Kaye write a play about body image.

ASSIGNED AT BIRTH, A Web Series About Some Bodies Launches This Month



32 interviews, an award-winning writer, a hybrid of web, film and documentary.

By: A.A. Cristi Oct. 07, 2020

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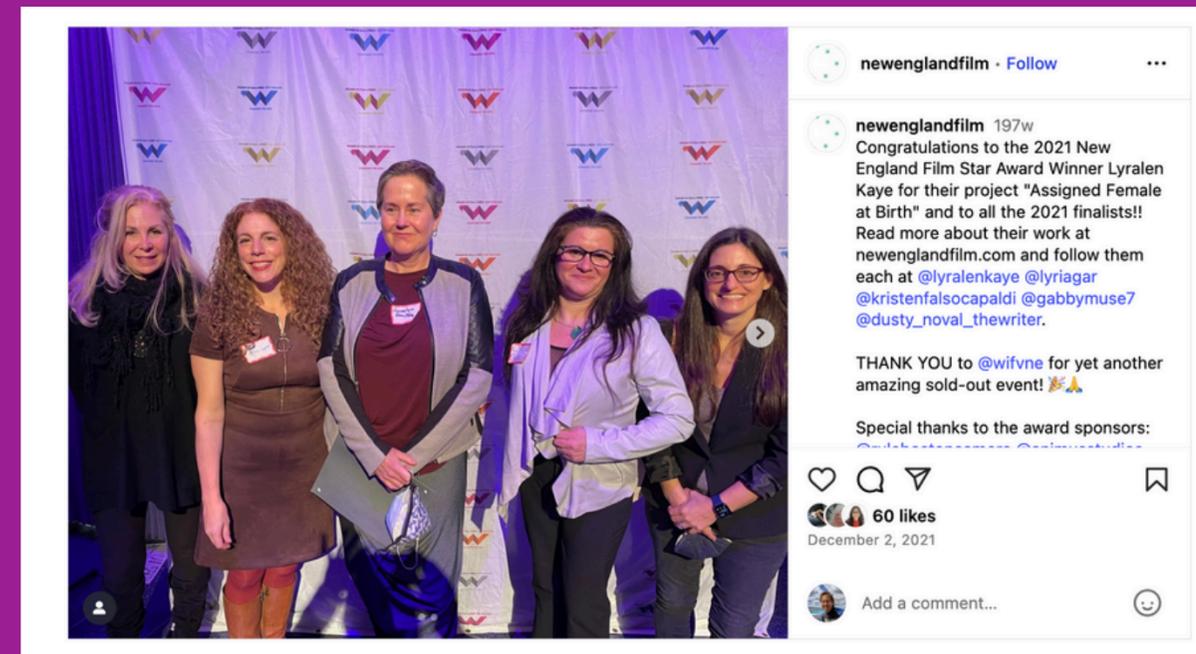
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2021 New England Film Star Award Finalists The 2021 finalists for the New England Film Star Award - NewEnglandFilm.com



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Assigned Female At Birth: A Web Series About Some Bodies

IN WEB SERIES • BY LOTL STAFF • NOVEMBER 21, 2020 • 3 MINUTES

1,121



Another Country Productions released Episode 1 of Assigned Female at Birth on YouTube on October 25, 2020

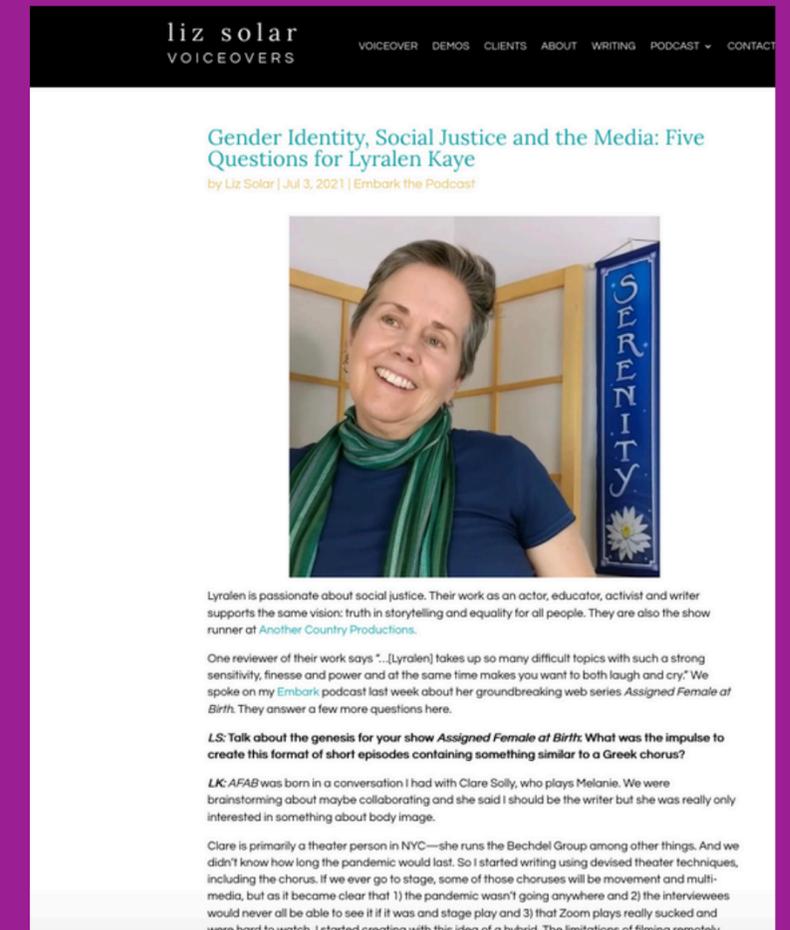
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liz solar VOICEOVERS

Gender Identity, Social Justice and the Media: Five Questions for Lyrallen Kaye

by Liz Solar | Jul 3, 2021 | Embark the Podcast



Lyrallen is passionate about social justice. Their work as an actor, educator, activist and writer supports the same vision: truth in storytelling and equality for all people. They are also the show runner at Another Country Productions.

One reviewer of their work says "...[Lyrallen] takes up so many difficult topics with such a strong sensitivity, finesse and power and at the same time makes you want to both laugh and cry." We spoke on my Embark podcast last week about her groundbreaking web series Assigned Female at Birth. They answer a few more questions here.

LS: Talk about the genesis for your show Assigned Female at Birth: What was the impulse to create this format of short episodes containing something similar to a Greek chorus?

LK: AFAB was born in a conversation I had with Clare Solly, who plays Melanie. We were brainstorming about maybe collaborating and she said I should be the writer but she was really only interested in something about body image.

Clare is primarily a theater person in NYC—she runs the Bechdel Group among other things. And we didn't know how long the pandemic would last. So I started writing using devised theater techniques, including the chorus. If we ever go to stage, some of those choruses will be movement and multi-media, but as it became clear that 1) the pandemic wasn't going anywhere and 2) the interviewees would never all be able to see it if it was and stage play and 3) that Zoom plays really sucked and were hard to watch, I started creating with this idea of a hybrid. The limitations of filming remotely



NE FILM STAR AWARD 2021: LYRALEN KAYE FOR AFAB



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