

MAG50 (name?)

RT 2/6/89 (in my office)

Self-selected, in that she heard about the research from her flatmate (man09). and offered to come to an interview. Expressed a strong concern about AIDS as the reason for wanting to be involved. Has gone through a period of AIDS 'phobia' - developing pseudo-symptoms etc., but was tested negative, then felt that she may have overreacted and wanted some assurance that she hasn't 'irrational fears'.

22 years old (just), ESW (one parent German one English), lives in student house in Manchester, parental home in TOWN1, went to an all girl's private school, very academic, she didn't like it as they undervalued drama. Attractive, casual appearance, no makeup, student style dress. She is a drama student (wants to be a director not an actor) and has an eloquence and confidence born of that culture. Very talkative, happy to talk about herself and her experiences. She redirected questions into areas that she was interested in.

Part of drama student set at UNIVERSITY and outside. goes on lots of drama course etc. Quite a small world but one in which sexual favours is important.

SEX ED: Got very little at school except for a woman (NAME REMOVED) coming in to 'tell them not to go further than heavy petting'. Her parents were very open with her, eg. she knew what sort of contraception her parents use (condom) and regularly discussed how far she went with boys with her mother. Nudity was accepted in the household as were boyfriends staying overnight.

AIDS: No ed at school. First contact was with HEA campaign and being involved in a gay sweatshop play put on by the drama dept about a man dying of AIDS. This affected her strongly and heightened her awareness. She feels that she overreacted as she was terrified of sex after this. It seemed a huge contradiction after the permissiveness of the drama scene which had formed her previous views on sexuality. Was later raped (by a man who was bisexual and promiscuous) which was why she became sure that she had AIDS, in fact didn't. Quite well educated on AIDS, tho most of what she knows is stuck in 1987, yet only sees safe sex as being careful and the condom.

V. good discussion of the sexual scene involved in drama circles. Artificial intimacy and sexualising of atmospheres in workshops and drama courses. There remains a traditional casting couch mentality although it has been mystified by pseudo sexual liberation ideology. Having to prove that you are liberated! Despite being strong and ambitious she is very confused about sex. Desires older and more experienced men but goes for the younger and less experienced in order to be in control. Doesn't feel that she could demand safe sex from an older man.

RELATIONSHIPS: Complicated! Triangles, older men/younger men. Personal and professional rels. become indistinguishable in her line. Talked a lot about power and feminism.

SEXUALITY: 1st stage at school didn't have sex but talked about it a lot with friends. No real pressure.

2nd stage going on drama course and being sexually desired and propositioned by older men. Overt sexuality, communal saunas etc.

3rd stage negative things, rape, fear of AIDS. Now trying to work out the contradictions between a permissive sexual script, realities of AIDS and demands of ambition and career.