

Transcript of individual interview with Rosabelle

Question 1: What feelings do you have about yourself as a sexual person?

Rosabelle: If I should compare with anybody who is able-bodied then I think I am quite competent. So, ja, I think I have matured over the years, and I think that it's got a lot to do with, you know, growing up in a family that accepts you as one of the kids, you know, I was never really singled out not to do this or that, I was always part of it and the relationship with my mom, I think was a good basis for me, you know, when I felt negative about myself she always would say to me you are a woman. Ja, so, and I think I can, I relate very well with people and I don't have problems with men. I actually prefer male company.

Question 2: How did you develop your sexual self-esteem?

Rosabelle: Growing up with my family and having had four sisters, you know, my father in particular was quite strict so, and me not being able to actually move around on my own. I always heard what my sisters did and, you know, and then I, when I left, when I left home and I started working I kind of had, you know, freedom. Ja, I think in the beginning of my relationships I wasn't very confident, I wasn't, you know, I didn't have a good self-image and so, ja, I, you know I had a lot of loose relationships, actually too many and when I started doing sport, I started sport about thirty, forty years ago, with the confidence that I developed in sport I, and I was really competitive, I was a good sports person, I dedicated a lot of my time and energy into that. And I think with that it gave me the courage, you know, to actually select who I wanted a relationship with, whereas previously, you know, it was just, you know, it was like part of my experiments, you know, with men and so on. So, ja, it actually, it actually gave me the power to say "yay" or "nay", you know?

Question 3: How would you describe your femininity as a person with disability?

Rosabelle: You know, my body, I have scoliosis, I have, you know, my body is a bit deformed and so on, so that would be my first, you know, thoughts, will he... You know, how will my body be, you know? Not attractive, you know, attractive to him, although, you know, will it spoil what I think we have and so on? Ja, so that was, that's a kind of fear. But you know, I just then later on said just, you know, said, you know, if he likes for who I am, you know, he has to accept, whatever comes along with it.

Question 4: What has your experience of dating and relationships been like?

Rosabelle: I've been married, you know, after going a phase, going through a long phase of experimentation I got married, I had a child and unfortunately I was divorced, I got divorced when she was three years old. After that, ja, I had three, like five year relationships after that, unfortunately two of the guys died, not my fault. Um, ja, I think that... Ja, it was good.

Question 5: How do you represent yourself on social media and dating sites?

Rosabelle: I prefer to have a picture of me in a wheelchair, and I actually have quite a good response because I say to myself, you know, if they see, if they see the wheelchair, you know, that's already one barrier, you know, that I've passed. And, you know, to take it from there, but, ja, I've actually, I still have some nice friendships with some of the guys but nothing, nothing serious from there because... Ja, just never found what I like. So, ja. And there are, you know, there are people, you know, I mean scammers, that's another story. But I feel that, you know, with the wheelchair I'm giving my true self, you know. It's no good starting something and then I have this barrier that I still have to overcome later on, you know. So we do it with the first, the first impact (laughs).

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