

Exquisite Gender

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Exquisite Gender is a DVD collection of personal stories that offers viewers a glimpse into the lives of those who are outside the male-female binary. Sixteen transgender and intersex persons tell their own stories about their experiences of being different, mainly through photographs from their past. Often hard-hitting and sometimes funny, all the stories express the desire to be treated as equals, to be given the freedom to choose one's gender rather than to be forced into the traditional male-female duality. Leigh-Ann's story especially addresses many of the myths surrounding transgender. And her story, as with the others, emphasises that transgender people are perfectly normal human beings with very human experiences.

A friend of mine who had never knowingly had any exposure to transgender people attended the launch of the collection. He was not given any information prior to the showing and so didn't know what to expect. Afterwards, I asked him what struck him most about Exquisite Gender. His reply was, "I was struck by the honesty and the willingness to share their experiences, both good and bad. That they had the freedom to do this in spite of what they have been through."