

A black and white photograph. On the left, a person with heavy makeup, including large dark eye makeup and dark lipstick, is drinking from a glass with a straw. They are wearing a leopard print top. On the right, the back of a person wearing a denim jacket is visible. A patch on the jacket reads "I DON'T WANT TO SEE OR BE SEEN BY STRAIGHT PEOPLE". Above the patch, there is some handwritten text on a piece of paper, possibly "Love".

Queercore: A Queer Punk Revolution

Shared anonymously. Credit to group 6, WGSS 205, CSULB, Fall 2022

Thesis/Topic

HETEROSEXUALITY
ISN'T NORMAL,
IT'S JUST COMMON.

Queercore is a subculture combined with the rage of the punk scene/music with an emphasis on queer political values. Originating in Toronto Canada during the early 80s, this scene came to be when certain queer kids did not feel comfortable in the mainstream gay scene and turned to the rage of the punk scene, where their presence caused hostility due to the prominent homophobia and misogyny in the punk scene.



What is Queercore?

Queercore, first known as homocore but later changed to be more inclusive, is a queer punk subculture and music genre originated in the 80s during the height of the punk scene and AIDS epidemic making its debut in popular cities such as LA, Toronto, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco. Although members would say that this movement is Apolitical we can identify influences of trans and queer poc theories mainly because this movement was in respons to the dominant white male gay culture and its assimulation to heteronormativity AKA homonorativity.



Where did this culture come from?

This sub culture grew large and fast through the use of zines; its first known publication in Toronto by G.B. Jones and Bruce LaBruce who sought to expose the “bourgeois-ification of the gay movement and the problematic sexual politics of punk”. These zines contained lists of queer bands, art works, manifestose all with an emphasis on revolting against institutionalized racism, homophobia, and sexism. Creators would hand out these zines at shows or randomly on the street. The culture heavily influenced other large movements and music genres such as the Riot Girl movement and grunge music; Kurt Cobain specifically.



What's The Difference?

Queercore had manifested out of frustration and rejection. People of this subculture did not identify with the mainstream gay scene at the time and did not agree with the increase in homonormativity. When they had turned to the punk scene they were met with racism and homophobia so, they sought out to create their own space in society. Queercore is extremely different from both these cultures because they resent mainstream gay stereotypes focusing their rage on institutionalized cis-hetero normativity through an intersexional and trans theorist lense.





Violence and Homophobia in Queer Punk

Regardless of the punk's queer implications and the vast history of queers partaking in punk, the subculture is predominantly heterosexual and can often be unfriendly to queers. It has been said that when Tammy Rae Carland was growing up the scene was not very friendly to those who were queer or was a woman, it was very homophobic. This may have not been true to everyone who was in the scene in the 1980s but a lot of people had similar experiences. Queer punk bands were subjects to slurs and physical violence threats. A member of the Pansy Division recalled a memory of his when the band was performing and they were getting objects thrown at them while being on stage. Other instances involved them having to be escorted off the stage due to safety reasons.

Prominent Figures

Some important figures in the queercore scene include:

The B-25s

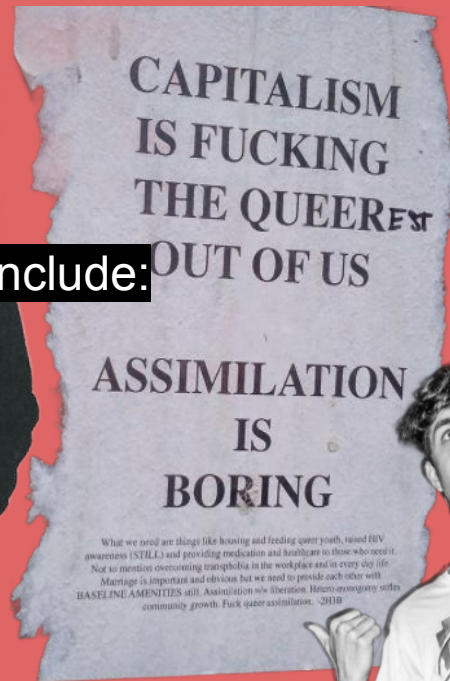
Pansy Division

Limp Wrist

Against Me!

Dicks

Riot Grrrl



Queercore and Dykecore Bands

Team Dresch

Tribe 8

Excuse 17

Fagatron

Longstocking

Dog Park Dissidents

Team Dresch



Tribe 8



Dog Park Dissidents



Dykecore

Dykecore is known as music for and by queer women. Just like queercore this was developed in the 1990s. Due to the overlap of this genre of music, a lot of bands identified with both subcultures. Dykecore's bands focus on punk music but they are also known to include slower ballads. This type of music addressed issues such as sexism, homophobia, stereotypes of queer people, relationships, etc. Dykecore was able to help establish a community for queer women in male dominated spaces.



The Importance of Queer Punk and Spaces

Queer punk is made to be a safe space for queer individuals, especially younger members. It can offer them something that you normally would not get in heterosexual societies. It allows individuals to have role models and establishes a space where queer youth can be accepted for their identities within the punk scene.

