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I think the best way I can describe it is I feel ethereal, feminine, and it is just so affirming to be even more feminine and beautiful. It just makes me feel really confident."

- Noah Burgan, 12

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"Drag makes me feel like myself. A lot of times before I discovered drag I felt like an imposter and didn't really know what I was doing. Drag kind of saved me. I found out who I was."

- Jameson Johnson, 12

Watch more of Noah & Jameson's stories on Discovery Plus here!



ONE WITH THEMSELVES

Finding Love Through Drag

Page Written and Designed by Pei Hu and Moriah Jeffries

Jameson Johnson's first experience in drag was his thirteenth birthday. He asked his mom if he could have a drag birthday dinner.

"I had known drag queens from helping my mom with fashion photography, and she was like 'Heck yeah,'" Johnson said.

He had a wig and a dress from Goodwill, and they went to a drag queen themed restaurant called Hamburger Mary's.

"It was so normal to me," Johnson said. "I met people who talked to me like I was a human being. They were famous in the drag community, but they were so normal and so real that it was affirming for me to be there and talk to them... I felt more like myself than I'd ever felt in my entire life."

When Jameson Johnson turned thirteen, he never thought he would end up on Generation Drag less than five years later. He started Dragutante, a nonprofit organization meant to help kids experience and explore what drag is as a performance art, with his mom in 2018, and because of that getting a following, the producers from Generation Drag reached out and asked if he'd be willing to be featured in it.

"Dragutante is like the Oscars of kids drag," Johnson said. "It's a safe place with support."

Without Dragutante, Johnson may not have received the exposure that got him onto Generation Drag, nor would he have met his best friend and partner, Noah Burgan.

Johnson and Burgan did that followed their and several others lives as drag performers and activists. The show also followed their relationship. This environment allowed for them to openly explore their gender identity, sexuality, and relationship with each other.

"Normally, especially for drag, they ask for either my drag persona, Ophelia Peaches, or they ask me to play a character," said Johnson. "This show wanted me to be myself."

It was an interesting experience for Johnson, something he had to overcome. He was so used to people wanting Ophelia Peaches that he struggled to present just Jameson. Johnson also had the time and the space to explore who he was and found out he was gender fluid in the process.

"It was a bit therapeutic because they were asking all these questions that I didn't even know the answer to, and then, I had to find the answer," Johnson said.

Jameson's experience was a little different than Burgan's.

"I think a lot that I've learned from the show was the way you hold yourself," Burgan said. I also felt a sense of community I've never been with actual queer people. I've never even met many transgender people like me, so being able to have that friendship where they can relate to my dysphoria and relate to my experiences was really important."

Ultimately, Noah's experience would be much different if they didn't have each other.

"I don't think I could've done a lot of it without him, just because I really do look up to him in many ways," said Burgan. "I think he has been very helpful in affirming me and helping me feel confident when I perform. Jameson has just been there for every second. I don't think I could have done it without him."



"I saw a post on Instagram, and I was just really invested in that since I always loved Ru Paul's Drag Race, and I was like 'Let's give it a try'," Burgan said.

Since Burgan had done Dragutante that year previously, the producers from Generation Drag knew who she was, so she was invited to join Johnson on the show.

From there, drag became a prominent part of their lives.

Generation Drag is a docuseries



1. Photo taken by Robbins Photography

2. Photo taken by Robbins Photography

3. Photo taken by Sabrina Shepard

4. Photo taken by Robbins Photography

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