



Queer CBC radio producer, writer and improv artist Trevor Campbell launches new “accusatory” comedic interview podcast celebrating queer origin stories called **YOU MADE ME QUEER!**

**TORONTO, Ontario, Mar. 11, 2021** -- “Ray of sunshine” Trevor Campbell, a regular freelance writer, producer and host for CBC’s The Doc Project has launched his own accusatory comedic interview podcast about queer origin stories called *YOU MADE ME QUEER!* (YMMQ) on Thursday, March 4, 2021. The weekly series features interviews with a diverse and international roster of LGBTQIA+ personalities sharing the story of their queer awakening.

Season one guests include *Great Canadian Baking Show* season three finalist Colin Asuncion, Canadian comedy legend and host of CBC’s *Because News* Gavin Crawford, Bag Dog Theatre Company artistic and managing director Coko Galore, *Gender - Your Guide* author Dr. Lee Airtton and *Ru Paul’s Drag Race* Season 5 winner Jinkx Monsoon, among others.

Still in its inaugural month, YMMQ was included on Yohomo’s list of Top Queer Podcasts 2021.

### **The world’s first “accusatory” podcast**

YMMQ is an “accusatory” podcast: each episode, Campbell and his hilarious guests have the chance to “blame” who and/or what “made” them queer. The conversation that follows joyfully skewers debates surrounding nature/nurture, orientation and gender identity, the “gay agenda” and a host of other hot topics – all through the fantastic and rarely heard stories of each guest’s discovery of their place on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum. Simply put, YMMQ reclaims one of the most pervasive accusations of identity politics and makes it, well... queer.

### **Campbell’s absurdist and joyful approach to interviews**

Called a “ray of sunshine” (Yohomo) and with a comic flair reminiscent of a “young, still lovable Jim Carrey” (Toronto Star), Campbell’s absurdist sense of humour, playful energy and deep curiosity in his guest’s experience elicits a unique interview. A graduate of Sheridan College’s musical theatre program and seasoned performer with an unusual resume of theatre and film credits, Campbell supplemented his training by studying improv with San Francisco’s Stage Werx and Toronto’s Bad Dog Theatre Company. He developed his interview style while working overseas as a journalist for Tokyo-based NGO Peace Boat, where he had the opportunity to interview everyone from activists and entertainers to heads of state. This singular combination makes each interview fresh, energetic and quick to pivot in response to his guests.

“I have a very eclectic resume, which tends to concern people,” says Campbell. “But it’s my Swiss Army knife. I think it helps me relate to my guests and engage with their experiences. Even I’ve never been in their shoes, I might have a pair of knock-offs.”

In a saturated podcast market, Campbell thinks YMMQ does something unique. “I’ve listened to a lot of interview podcasts—queer or otherwise—and they often centre around the same talking points. I don’t think small talk is interesting to listen to or participate in, so I centred YMMQ around an idea that’s too provocative to be polite about. Things get personal and unusual right off the bat.”

His experience as a performer and improviser keeps conversations engaging. “I think comedians – especially improvisers – make interesting interviewees because they create a space that rewards play. Good improv is about staying engaged and generous and taking big swings. It encourages honest reactions, and that’s when people say things that surprise both you and themselves.”

### **Unapologetically queer but with a wide appeal**

But even though Campbell and his guests all identify as being somewhere on the LGBTQ+ spectrum, YMMQ is a show for everyone. "Anyone can relate to the excitement and awkwardness of self discovery in one way or another" Campbell says. But YMMQ is unapologetically queer and highlights the diversity of experience regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. Minorities are often tasked with being teachers, but through sharing their stories of queer awakening LGBTQIA+ people can foster awareness on their own terms.

"I've spent a lot of time trying to speak eloquently about my own gender and sexuality, especially through the advocacy work I was involved with while living in Japan. And yes, I think it's so important to speak accurately and equitably about gender and sexuality, but on the other hand - it's refreshing to put down that big bag of statistics and academic terms and just blame my queerness on Josh Brolin and that cut-off sweatshirt he wore in Goonies."

When it's safe to do so, Campbell plans to host live shows and take YMMQ on a North American tour.

### **YMMQ is out now!**

The first three episodes of YMMQ were released on Thursday, March 1 featuring Colin Asuncion, Coko Galore, and Filip Jeremic. New episodes are released weekly each Thursday (twice weekly each Monday and Thursday for YMMQ's inaugural month). Episodes are approx. 50 minutes and can be downloaded on all major podcast platforms.

[www.youmademequeer.com](http://www.youmademequeer.com)

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