

Teo

By Ernst Coppenjans



78 years

1943 Vught / worked in nursing

'I am attracted to bisexual married men'

'I've been gay from birth. I can't provide a start date or circumstance. I've never had a coming out. When I was thirteen, I had my first ejaculation near my parental home in Hengelo. Together with the boys from the neighbourhood. It was a wonderful moment. I didn't even know that that existed. No one had ever educated me. I also didn't have brothers or sisters. I had to discover everything myself.'

Sexual exploration

'My mother always knew. I had the advantage, incidentally, that my mother was wheelchair bound. In the evenings I secretly met with the boys next door. They climbed on a wall to the balcony and were able to enter my room. Then I would hear my mother yell, "Teo, what are you doing?" But she couldn't come upstairs. There were always friends who wanted to play with my train or who wanted to have a look at my stamps. Well, I could really go crazy. Then I also discovered certain places such as public gardens and urinals in Hengelo where exciting things were happening.'

Jerking off in the train

'When I was sixteen and studying in Enschede, I took the seven o'clock train back to Hengelo every Tuesday evening. In that empty train there was an older man who literally passed through the whole train first and then came to sit in my compartment. Every Tuesday evening in that train compartment we jerked each other off in eight minutes. I am eternally grateful to that man. These kinds of incidents happened everywhere, it kept happening to me.'

Carefree and happy

'When I was twenty, I read in an advertisement that a healthcare centre on the Keizersgracht in Amsterdam was looking for male staff. I applied and was accepted. I lived internally. At that time, I also became a member of the COC (an LGBTI organization in the Netherlands). My boyfriends visited me on the Keizersgracht. It was all very carefree, because it was the time of the Provos (Dutch hippies), flower power, women who were pro-choice, the Kabouters (Dutch anarchists), people who slept on the Dam, the hippies, the weed smokers. It was a liberated time. I could do my thing.'

Playable on both sides

'I've always been attracted to bisexual married men. That group has had a hard time in society. My gay friends said it was hidden homosexuality and my straight friends said they were like gramophone records: playable on both sides. The upside was that they were not aiming to end up in a committed relationship with me, and I always loved that, and they said I gave them great satisfaction. When they had children, sex at home with the woman ended. I came across them everywhere. The window cleaner, the man who measured the output of my central heating, the painter I hired to paint my kitchen, the insurance man who came because my storage unit was under water, the cleaner in the apartment building.'

Porn collection

'When they came into the house and saw my bedroom, they also saw the posters of women. I didn't hang them up for no reason. 95 percent of my porn collection consists of images from heterosexual movies because that is what those guys wanted to see. I had also placed an ad inviting men to come and watch straight porn movies at my house. That was very popular. The internet has destroyed a lot. I now still have regulars who visit. The cyclist has been coming for 45 years. The plumber for 23 years. Over the years, many contacts have had to stop visiting me. Yet I remain eternally grateful to them for the cosy hours we were able to spend together.'

Little bell

'In 1970 my parents were finally able to get married because my father's first wife, who he never officially divorced, passed away. Then my mother made a U-turn. I was no longer welcome, for two years. I think that's when she realized she was never going to have grandchildren. I had a very special childhood. I had a little bell next to my bed. When my mother needed help at night, the bell rang. In my working life I have always worked in healthcare. I've never been in a committed relationship because I'm not a one-person type. Why would I love just one man when that means I have to disappoint 99 others?'