**Interview with Peach of the Midwest**

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Chelsey: Alrighty I’ve got the audio recording now, the first thing I want to go over is that you have read the research participation form. Im going to go ahead and go over it really quick. It just says you are being invited to participate in a research project about drag. This project is being conducted by the Art of Drag class at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and taught by sociologist Ezra Temko.

If you agree to participate in this study, I will interview you about your experiences with drag and your thoughts about drag. Our hope is that this research can help us learn more about contemporary experiences and perceptions of drag artists regarding drag. It will also contribute to a collection of interviews my students began in a Sociology of Drag course in Spring 2019 that will help to educate the broader public and serve as a resource for others interested in researching or learning more about drag.

Your interview will likely take approximately 30 minutes, so if you have time constraints or more or less to say, the interview can be shortened, lengthened, or broken up over multiple sessions. So, we can do more tomorrow if you'd like.

Your interview will be audio recorded so that we can accurately transcribe and thus have accurate records of what you say. The audio of your interview as well as a transcript of the interview will be published and otherwise reported in manners accessible to the public. (Video recording is what I am going to do, but your video won't be submitted). Your interview will be attributed to you using your drag name. If, during your interview, you share your real name, that will also be attributed to you, unless you tell us to remove that from the recording and transcript. Me: Is it okay that we use your real name? Okay. If you ask us to remove your real name, we will do so (to the extent allowed by law).

 Participation in this survey is voluntary. You may choose to not answer any question. You may decide you no longer want to participate at any time. There is no compensation for participating and there is no penalty for not participating. By participating in this interview, you encounter the risk of your words being used against you in your professional or personal life, just as other public statements you might make. Participation in this project is expected to present minimal risk.

If there are any other considerations you would like us to follow—like me to follow, just me know, okay?

And then you can contact our principal investigator Ezra Temko with any questions or concerns and I can give you his email and phone number if you need it.

Alright, So you are doing good today?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I'm doing pretty good, how about yourself?
Chelsey: Im doing pretty good, I just can't hear very well.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: How is the COVID goin’ so far?
Chelsey: It's going, its going, I feel fine. I just know I have an ear infection. I just know I have to get over this before I fly so...

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh good, so it’s working out pretty good, you’re not having any-- you didn’t have any horrible symptoms or anything?

Chelsey: No, I mean I was just wiped out for about a week and umm I just—I just, the secondary thing right now is what’s getting me.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh okay, when I had it, I had somewhat of a cough and then like my cough has lingered like on and on so I’ve been taking Robitussin so…
Chelsey: Yeah I’ve been doing the Mucinex, that’s been working for me.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh okay. Yeah ‘cause it’s good to do that and some tea because I noticed um that mucus will sit there.

Chelsey: Oh yea! Well I mean since we are on the subject of COVID, that’s one of the interview questions. What has the COVID-19 pandemic meant for your—for your life as a drag artist?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh my goodness (*laughter)* honestly, COVID has stopped everything for a drag queen, I’m telling you. We’re even having—we are having to get creative, um so a lot of queens are doing um like virtual shows. A lot of queens are doing um like, you know they all have like a big show within their basement with just the queens only. As for me, I stopped doing, my last show would have been Halloween actually.

Chelsey: Oh wow!

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: And um I was actually quarantined from being exposed to COVID, so I couldn’t make that show. So, I haven’t performed since before then actually so.

Chelsey: Okay, so it’s changed everything for you?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh yeah, definitely.

Chelsey: Okay.

Chelsey: Alright, um so I just want to know a little more about your personal story with drag. When did you first hear about drag, and what was your initial reaction to it?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um Well I started doing drag--when I first heard about drag, it was at Chester Street Bar in Champaign, Illinois. A few of my friends were actually drag queens at the time, they were doing some talent nights or whatever and I started of from a dare. I was dared by a friend to do it and ever since I got in drag, I never stopped. I’ve been doing drag since 2008.

Chelsey: Okay, Okay. and you said a “talen night.” What is that?

 Peach of the Midwest Carrington: A talent night is where it’s just like a talent show, you showcase your talent.

Chelsey: Oh TALENT…

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah so they call it a talent night.

Chelsey: Okay! Okay, um so you started performing as a drag artist in 2018 and you did it on a dare?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: 2008.

Chelsey: 2008. Excuse me.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Mhm. It was a long time ago.

Chelsey: So 2000---And you did it on a dare, huh?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah I did it on a dare and I um haven’t stopped since. I started at Chester Street Bar actually. I became the show director over there. And then I went over to Emerald City” that was another um bar that they had. Um I became a show director over there. And I’ve been a show director for quite some time everywhere I go so..uh yeah I’ve-- it’s been pretty successful for me actually.

Chelsey: That’s cool, that’s cool. Um like show directing like say, is it like a drag family or a house that you’re in?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So I’m in the house of Carrington. I started off from being a Dupree and then after I think after probably 6 months, 6 or 7 months I became a Carrington and I’ve been a Carrington ever since.

Chelsey: Nice! Okay. How did your family, friends, and your other--other loved ones receive you becoming a drag artist?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: They packed the shows (*laughing)* they packed the shows.

Chelsey: Yeah?!

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: They packed the shows. Oh yeah, most definitely.

Chelsey: That’s great! That’s great.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah, they packed the shows, so it worked out great for me.

Chelsey: Okay, that’s really cool that you got so much support. Where does your drag name come from?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um so I started off as my first drag name was Peaches, um and then my uh current drag name is “Peach of the Midwest Carrington.” Uh honestly, the Carringtons are known for their backsides. So that’s where we kind of get the peach name from. And I used to travel a lot and I’ve also uh traveled to like different bars within the Midwest, so that’s where we got the “Peach of the Midwest” from so.

Chelsey: Okay, alright. So, there’s a lot of terms for types and styles of drag, from like drag queen, drag king, glamour queen, comedy queen, bioqueen, camp queen.
Are you-- their particular labels you would use to characterize your drag? What kind of drag do you do?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um, I would say I do.. uh... I have performed both glamourous drag and I’m also a dancer. So, I’m a drag—I’m a dancing girl what they call it. Um so sometimes you will see me like in a dance costume with a lot of fringe and know, big hair, big dance hair or sometimes you’ll see fully glamorous and uh full stone gown, or you know, sequin gowns.

Chelsey: That’s fun. Do you make the gowns yourself?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: No… No so I have a lot of seamstresses that I work with. Mama Montclair. Uh a retired drag queen, her name was Amiah St. James. Um I have a team of seamstress that do alterations and things like that for me. They are a part of the U of I. They used to do the U of I ballet team. So they do my alterations.

Chelsey: Oh okay. So, you would characterize yourself more of a glamour queen, dancing—dancing queen?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yes, uh huh.

Chelsey: Does the type, does being a glamor queen or you know, dancing queen, does that effect your life as a drag artist? Like how does that effect your success or your being a drag artist?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um… I think it actually helped out a lot actually. So, I’m the owner of Miss Chambana Pride, I came up with that pageant last—I think two years ago. And I was a manager for that so that was a success. Also, I was a part of the “In Her Closet” at Spurlock Museum at the U of I on the U of I campus. They had an exhibit for drag queens and I was showcased on the runway as one of the girls on there.

Chelsey: Wow!

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I’ve done several big shows with the “RuPaul Drag Race” girls. I’ve done the sold out, I’ve done the sold out shows at the U of I, Illini union. So yeah it’s been pretty good.

Chelsey: Well that’s good.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: And I also, this past, two years ago, because we didn’t have it this year, but the year before that, I brought back the shows at Parkland College.

Chelsey: Okay!

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: They hadn’t had shows in over I think 5 to 8 years so…

Chelsey: That’s awesome, okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: …it was a great success. So yeag.

Chelsey: Who or what has influenced your drag, like?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um the list is long, so I have a queen who I first started out with, her name is Kelesia Karmikal. Um she started me out, started me-- teaching me makeup and different things like that and once I became a Carrington, my drag mother is Stimulation Carrington. And then I had my grandmother which is Seduction Carrington. I have (inaudible) Clair, I have Amyah St. James, um Colexis Carrington. So it was like, kinda like the Carringtons are kinda like a village. Like a lot of people say it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to raise a drag queen too… *(laughter)*

Chelsey: Okay! Alright. I was reading a reading from class the other day. It said, one of the things it said in the reading was um drag is for--drag is like kindergarten. It’s like kindergarten for drag queens like starting off.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah, uh huh.

Chelsey: Do you agree with that kinda once you start off and kinda get going?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah, definitely.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah because you have to learn the ropes of it all because the makeup and…. See a lot of the time, a lot of times when you have--when you are in drag houses, their main thing is they want you to be as independent as possible.

Chelsey: Mhm.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So, what they do is they kind of mold you into--into being as independent as possible. So they’ll start off with-- a lot of times they start off with make-up. Make-up is like one of the hardest things for you to uh..to do because you’re going from of course a male to a female. You have to learn the structure of your face and all that. So, I think that was like the first thing for me to learn. And then after that, we went on to costumes because a lot of times when you’re a new drag queen if you don’t have the family structure of someone who already was already in drag or someone who is willing to allow you to borrow their costumes and garments and all that you’re gonna wear street clothes. So that was one of the things we kinda got a creative in the beginning with the street clothes and all that. And um as I moved on and learned make-up and you know got more serious and willing to spend more money and invest in myself I became umm…I became interested in costumes and you know, garments and I was able to meet different seamstress and work with a lot of people to where I was able to uh start my closet of having my own items. So.

Chelsey: Nice. Okay. How often do you perform in drag and where do you perform the most?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So, before Covid, I used to perform at a bar called Noah’s Rock Bar. Um we would perform every month. We would have every month shows and that had started prior to Covid and it actually--the last show there was Halloween. Prior to that I was going from different bars and hosting shows. I was over at Clark Bar before. uh like I said C Street before it closed, I was there. Sometimes we were there Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday it just depends you know, what kind of events they had. Um normally Sundays were drag shows but sometimes we would have you know, like a talent night for on a weekday or something like that so.

Chelsey: Okay, so like 4 or 5 times a week you would before covid? Perform?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Uh it just depends see C Street has been closed for quite some time. So once C street closed things kinda decreased a lot. We kinda weren’t doing drag for a while and then I kinda did some networking to where we could get it back going. So I would say, before covid I was probably doing, probably like 2 shows a month if that.

Chelsey: Two shows a month?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Mmm hmm. Yeah.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: ‘Cause sometimes I would travel to Peoria. Sometimes I would travel to Decatur, Illinois so. Sometimes Springfield. So yeah. Yeah.

Chelsey: Okay. What goes into getting ready for a performance?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: (*laughter).*

Chelsey: Short version. No, (*laughter)* just kidding.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh my goodness…So first of all, first of all, picking out the garments is, is you know..it’s-- it’s a big deal..um ‘cause a lot of times you want your garments to go with your music. So, picking out the music is one of the most stressful things for me because you kinda wanna, you kinda wanna uh..look… I don’t know… I’m the type—I’m the type of performer that likes to look at the audience, so if I’m going to a bar setting, a lot of people at a bar setting don’t really like the glamourous gown girl. You know? A lot of—a lot of gowns I normally pull out at like children’s events. I normally pull out at brunch events..um so that I can keep the energy up.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So, first things first is your music. Second thing would be your garments that you’re going to wear. Third thing would be your make-up which takes sometimes from 30 minutres to probably 2 hours just depending on, you know, how long you want to stretch it out or how long, how creative you want to get with it. Umm and then I’ts getting to the bar going ahead and setting up your station and, you know, getting to it. So yeah.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: It’s a lot of work.

Chelsey: So a lot of work.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: But that’s just the short time. That’s just the short version of it (*laughter).*

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Doing it is a lot longer than talking about it so *(laughter).*

Chelsey: Yes, I--from what I’ve read, you guys, you guys uh put a lot of work…a lot of work into it.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Definitely.

Chelsey: Alright. So um what are the biggest challenges to doing drag and being a drag artist?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Umm I think the biggest challenges are..well I think the biggest challenge for now is like in our area we don’t have a gay bar, so we have to utilize straight bars and you know LGBTQ+ friendly bars to be able to showcase our talent. So, I think that’s one of our biggest challenges currently.

Chelsey: So you said that you perform for universities or..or put on pageants? Is that what you said?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So we..okay..so we do..we work with the university because we are a part of the “In Her Closet” with Spurlock museum. So, that went on for about a year. They extended it due to covid because they said a lot of people didn’t have a chance to come in and all that. So, umm the exhibit is currently down, but they are looking into bringing back some more exhibits over the course of the year or whatever. Um so, we do do work with them. We um..we do the U of I Illini Union show, but they cancelled it due to covid this year.

Chelsey: Gotcha.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So I’ll probably be retired so a lot of things we normally would do were cancelled due to covid so.

Chelsey: Okay. Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah. But as far as the pageant, that was cancelled as well.

Chelsey: Yeah. I’m so sorry

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Before--so I was actually supposed to crown the first queen, um because I was emeritus so I was crowing the actual first queen this year for Pride but they cancelled it so.

Chelsey: Okay. Um next question. Let’s see. Is there anything unique to the drag scene where you live compared to other places in the country or in the world? What’s unique about it?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I think—I think the biggest thing we would need would be a gay club. I think the biggest thing we need is a gay club because it gives us our own space. It gives us our own safe haven. You know? And it allows us to have that voice on what, you know, on what our community likes and enjoys versus going into somebody else’s bar and having to you know get comfortable with what everybody like, you know? We can actually do what we enjoy in our community in our own space.

Chelsey: Mhm. And can you clarify where you live that that you don’t have the--

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I currently live in--I live in Champaign, Illinois.

Chelsey: Champaign? Okay, I see what you’re saying. Okay. So, what is.. there is nothing really nothing unique about the Champaign drag scene to you?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I mean honestly like the Carringtons have taken over (*laughing).*

Chelsey: Okay..okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So that’s the unique thing. I’m in one of the hottest houses in the Midwest um which is the Carringtons. We go all over. We have queens all over. Um and I mean when I say all over, literally I mean all over. There’s Carringtons everywhere. But that’s--that’s the most known house in the Midwest so. That’s—that’s the unique thing. I’m in one of the--I’m one of the “IT” girls. *(laughing)*

Chelsey: Gotcha! That’s gotta be nice. Gotta always feel like you belong somewhere, you know?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah (inaudible) I’m telling you, I get asked if I’m, if I’m a Carrington everywhere.

Chelsey: Really? *(laughing)*

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: When I say everywhere,.. everywhere! Yes.

Chelsey: Okay well I’ve got a couple personal questions for you, so um feel free to just pass or if you don’t feel comfortable answering, um that’s totally fine.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Okay.
Chelsey:  Okay? Um so how do you identify in terms of your sex, gender identity, and gender expression out of drag?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So I go by pronouns “He” “Him” um actually I’m a drag queen and I actually have a baby that will be born July 21st.

Chelsey: Oh! Well congratulations!

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah so I’ll be a dad soon. Thank you. So I’ll be a dad soon. Um so yeah, I identify as “He” “Him in a dress.”

Chelsey: Okay. Okay! So how has drag influenced your sex and gender identities?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Uh…I don’t, I don’t know…

Chelsey: Don’t know?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Actually okay. So I will say, so I am engaged to a trans man.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So, I’m engaged to a trans man, I’m a drag queen. I identify as “He” “Him”. He identifies as “He” “Him.” Um so I think it’s actually been fun. (*Laughing)* I think it’s been fun and very interesting for us.

Chelsey: Oh, lost him.

NO AUDIO – (his phone died)

INTERVIEW 2

Chelsey: Okay, you’re good. Alright. So um, this next section is just a few more questions. I just wanna know, how do you define drag?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um I define drag as dance as if no one is watching. Be yourself. Do what makes you comfortable and be entertained.

Chelsey: So that’s how you define drag? As just freedom to do what you want.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yes definitely. Yes. Yep freedom to yep..freedom to do whatever you want. ‘Cause nowadays drag used to --nowadays drag is a lot more open. Drag used to be you’re a drag queen or a drag king. Now you have bioqueens, now you have um you know you have androgenous, you have so many, there’s so many classifications when it comes to drag now. So I think just being yourself…..I’m sorry?

Chelsey: So bioqueens, so bioqueens---can you *(stuttering.)*..I’ve read about bioqueens, what is your definition of a bioqueen?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I honestly don’t even have a definition of bioqueen because… I’m still learning…like as far as the definitions and all that. I don’t even know what to consider myselflike…*(both laughing)* … my….you know ‘cause I don’t know what classifications it goes under, um because it’s so many definitions that I’m not even sure what even my classification would be as far as my drag persona.

Chelsey: I see.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um ‘cause as I said, I’m very versatile, so I don’t really know if it has the certain criteria it goes under or what so. As far as a bioqueen, I know I’ve had some of those in shows before. Um and they were a lot different than you know regular drag queens as far as attire, make-up and all that, but I don’t really know if I could put together a definition for them though.

Chelsey: Okay, okay. Um what do you think—what do you think is the purpose of drag is?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I think the purpose of drag is an outlet for everybody. It allows you to be yourself and not only just that, it allows you to showcase your talent. I know a lot of uh talented individuals, they struggle with depression, they struggle with mental illnesses and this is like their escape for them, so yeah.

Chelsey: Good, good. Okay. Do you think drag is sexual at all?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Uh no I don’t think so. Now sometimes in a performance you can get a little cheek or a little tit, but I don’t think so though.

Chelsey: Why don’t you think its sexual?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Uh I don’t know. I think…I…I don’t know.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I think..well I mean…I don’t know ‘cause sometimes--honestly some towns, I mean with the House of Carrington, you just never know what to expect so. I think in certain cases, it could be, because sometimes it just depends on the crowd because sometimes the crowd likes more of a striptease versus a drag queen performance if that makes sense.

Chelsey: Yeah that makes sense.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: So I think it honestly. I think it honestly just depends on the venue and the occasion.

Chelsey: Okay, so the sexuality—so it’s sexual depending on the night and on the crowd and what’s going on?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Right. Definitely. Yeah, the energy in the room ‘cause sometimes you can get a bunch of older guys and they want that extra, you know, that extra dance. Yeah, so.

Chelsey: Like the eroticism of it?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yep. They want you to pull out all the tricks and they pull out all the money so… *(laughing)*

Chelsey: There you go. Aright. So how do you feel about RuPaul’s Drag Race?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Uh… (*heavy sigh)…*I like RuPaul’s Drag Race, don’t get me wrong. I feel that some of their critiques and some of the pickings of the contestants are unfair at times and some of the eliminations are unfair at times, but I believe it gives the world the opportunity to see the lifestyle. And it gives the world the opportunity to get educated on the art form.

Chelsey: How—How---in what ways do you think it’s unfair?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um I just think a lot of times like when you’re watching it, I think certain people that I would say certain people (inaudible).

Chelsey: I can’t hear you again I’m so sorry. You said its uh?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington:Can you hear me now?

Chelsey: There we go! Yeah! Sorry about that.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah I just—I just think that at some points it’s just not fair like as far as eliminations and some of the challenges of people that I feel should win….yeah they don’t get to win so.

Chelsey: Okay.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: And then also a lot of the contestants have been…a lot of the contestants have been uh former contestants like daughters, former contestants like family, you know? So I just think that picking sometimes…

(No Audio from 15:09 to 22:15---Lost connection)

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I’m back.

Chelsey: Hi!

Peach of the Midwest: This time I’m (unaudible). I was trying not to get back into the car because my nephew is on YouTube watching videos.

Chelsey: Aww well that’s alright. Um. Alright I just--

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I’m on the charger now and I’m ready *(laughing).*

Chelsey: Okay *(laughing)* alright so, I’ve only got a couple more questions for you. So you were talking about “Drag Race” and you said that it was unfair….um.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah just, I—I think that some of their selections and pickings are unfair at times. Umm a lot of times, when watching um as a spectator, you think that some people should win, and you think that the person (inaudible).

Chelsey: I’m sorry, I can’t hear what--I can’t hear you again. It’s just coming through a little bit--the background…oh okay.. so you said the contestants…

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Can you hear me?

Chelsey: Yeah. So how they’re um how they are picked and how people win. Um. You--

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Yeah, how they pick a lot of the contest winners and all that. I just think a lot of times the people who are winning should not win and some of the people who don’t get to win that challenge, I think that they should win that challenge because they are a lot stronger within that challenge or whatever. I just--I don’t know. Sometimes, I just feel like a lot of the times their pickings are more for television versus it is for the best of, you know, the best of the best of the the um contestants.

Chelsey: Yeah/ Okay. I noticed on Drag Race that um and I read also that uh there hasn’t been any Latino women or Latino drag queens that have won and I noticed like a lot of the challenges kinda personify more of uh white icons instead of uh, you know, different ethnicities. Umm do you think that--that drag or a lot of drag performances personify whiteness more than any other ethnicity?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um, as far as television, I would say yes.

Chelsey: Uh huh.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: ….and RuPaul…*(both laughing)*

Chelsey: Yeah.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um but..Um I can say the benefit of RuPaul honestly…He’s made way for a lot of…a lot of individuals. Of all generations and all races I will say. Um even--even for local entertainers because drag-- you know with having Drag Race on television, it’s allowed people to be more educated and be able to accept, you know, a drag queen better than if they hadn’t seen it. You know ‘cause there’s never really been a show about a drag queen before RuPaul’s Drag Race. So, I think it’s helped us in a way, but I think also its um hindered a lot of us because they think that that’s what they should expect from the local girls and all that and they don’t--you know, that’s television. So television it’s a lot more skunked up at times. You know, they have a lot of designers that can do different creative garments and all that so.

Chelsey: Okay great! Okay I noticed also that RuPaul that doesn’t let fully trans uh individuals or fully transitioned individuals on the show. What do you think about that?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um I think that it’s unfair but I also think It’s best to keep it separate so that they are judged fairly.

Chelsey: Mhm. Okay. Do you think that—that they should allow drag kings on the show?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Um I think that they should have their own show actually. I think if RuPaul did their own show….*(child screaming in the background)…* I think that that would be good.

Chelsey: Okay— I only got two— I only got one more question for you. If you could change one thing about drag, the drag scene, or the drag community, what would it be?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I’m sorry, I can’t even hear you. What did you say?

Chelsey: If you could change one thing about drag, the drag scene, or the drag community, what would it be?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I’m sorry I can’t even hear you. It’s still on. I’m sorry, what’d you say?

Chelsey: You’re fine. I really appreciate your taking the time to do this. I said if you could change one thing about drag, the drag scene, or the drag community, what would it be and why?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I think it would be getting a club. I think that would be the main thing that’s our focus currently in the Midwest. I think that’s one of our hindrance and one thing that will make the community and also the drag community a lot stronger.

Chelsey: Okay. Well, what do you think about--what do you think are a lot of misconceptions people have about drag?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: You said about drag?

Chelsey: Yeah what are--what do you think are common misconceptions about drag? Where do you think it comes from?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: I’m not exactly sure how to answer that honestly.

Chelsey: Okay. Uh so last question. If you choose one thing you want people to know about or learn about drag, what would it be?

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: (cartoon noises) …probably that drag is like an escape and a way for us to showcase our talent for everybody…to everybody. Umm and that it’s…you know, for a lot of times for a lot of people it’s a fun thing verses a career and also a lot of people within it have made it a career because there’s a lot of times drag queens--that’s their full time job.

Chelsey: Okay. Well thank you so much! That was my last question for you, I really uh I wish you the best. I know COVID has affected this a lot for you and I uh I really uh wish you the best and I hope that things pick up for you and in doing shows and everything.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Same to you! Thank you so much and I hope that covid gets better for and I hope that it leaves you (inaudible).

Chelsey: Thank you! And uhh take care of that new baby when it comes.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: Thank you!

Chelsey: You’re welcome, you have a good day. Thank you.

Peach of the Midwest Carrington: You too. Uh huh. buh bye

Chelsey: Buh bye.