# **SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN Video Transcript**

(Denise) My paper got a little crumpled but… (Astro) Oh, well. (Denise) …would you mind holding that? (Astro) Oh, no, no. Not at all.

Where do you want me to be?

[Faint music]

(Denise) First, start off by introducing yourself.

(Pxl) My name is Pxl. This is my room.

I live… uh, should I say anything else? (Denise) Oh, I use manual exposure. (James) Oh, you

do! Oh, cool. So you do expose for the face?

(Denise) Yeah. (Man 1) Okay.

(Denise) Yeah, it looks really nice right now.

(Astro) I keep looking at it and you, you know? I

don't know why that is. I don't know why

that is, but… (Tyler) I'm Tyler Hawkins. (Denise) Oh, can you start over? Do it one more time?

(Tyler) Okay.

Hi! I'm Tyler Hawkins and I'm a fifth

year Burner. [Zipper zipping] (Denise) Would it be possible, for the

hat, if you could kind of wear it a little

more back on your head because I'm

getting a shadow across your face. (Kevin) Sure. (James) And

I'm new at this. I’ve never been on camera before. [laugh]

(Denise) Okay. Oh and one of them, in one of the

Introductions, if you could say how many

times you've been to Burning Man? (Astro) Oh, okay! Right,

right, right.

Are you ready? (Denise) Yeah. (Astro) Okay. Hello, my name is

Astronaughty. Some people know me as the

Naughty One or He Who Is Naughtier Than

All Others. I have a bunch of different

Names, but it's all around…

He Who Is Astronomically Naughty is also

another one. (Kevin) How is it? (Denise) Looks great. Can

you talk a little bit? (Kevin) Yeah, absolutely.

Good morning, Denise. It's wonderful to

see you.

Introducing myself is

a difficult thing at this time because

I'm in the middle of this transition. So

I could actually introduce myself as

Kevin. I could introduce myself as Kemia.

I've been to Burning Man three times.

Love it. It's been immense. it's been

unfolding for me. And as I have

grown and become more comfortable in that experience I

have grown and become more comfortable in me too. It’s a beautiful thing.

[Dance music]

(Pxl) I don't really get gender restrictions… (Tyler) I think gendered

clothing is a little bit boring, to be more specific…

(Kevin) There’s that community police… (Astro) I start to

feel stage and it gets worse right before I need to get ready to go. (Kevin) …definitely ridicule or… (Astro) …shaving myself and doing whatever I need to do to get ready. I always think, oh, people are going to reject me. They’ll think I’m weird.

(Pxll) …about how if I just didn't know

that it was okay to feel these ways and those sort of things. (Kevin) …like everyone

else. I gave up, like…

(Tyler) Whenever I'm just wearing

plain clothes or work clothes and I go to the…

(James) …and I see it in myself. You can put on

something that makes

you look funny or sexy or whatever you think. Definitely changes the energy.

(Tyler) …have the right duds and then my spirit just like awakens.

(James) You put something on, your

energy changes. I bet you can even measure it somehow scientifically. (Astro) …someone

looking like me to walk in. You can

actually feel the energy change in the

room. (James) I realized on Halloween it was my

favorite holiday because people could

take a part of their personality and

magnify it or enhance it or be

it. Even though if they were afraid to do

that in their normal life, they could

actually pick a little part of their

personality and express it and great

things would always happen. People would

have so much fun because everybody all

of a sudden had everything in common

together. They're all doing something

unusual and they can show that part of

their personality and synchronistic

things would happen and people would

click and have fun. I realized this is the

best holiday in the world, and when I

heard about Burning Man, what could

be more fun than a week-long costume

party? (James) You're all wearing something crazy.

You're all… You all have something in

common. So it just felt magical to me,

definitely. So it took Burning Man to

really really get me wearing crazy

costumes, you know, more often. (Astro) Everybody

struggles to tell other people what

Burning Man is. (Kevin) It's impossible to define

because it is what you want it to be, and

so for me, I suppose

Burning Man is that sacred chameleon.

Burning Man will morph and shift and

bring to you what it is that you would like to have it be to you. And it is all there and it all possible.

[Dance music]

(Astro) Burning Man is a temporary city built

out in the desert that rises for one

week. At the end, towards the end of it,

they burn a man, and then right before

the end of it, they burn a temple and then

it all goes away and no one leaves a

trace. (Man) Everyone around me is kinda flirting with

fashion and like what it means to, you

know, push boundaries: have scarves,

makeup, jewelry, piercings, like guys dressed

like girls.

Girls don't really seem to dress like

guys too much.

[Dance music]

(Astro) I think the number one thing that

Burning Man brings to adults is it

invites them to play again.

[Dance music]

(James) I would describe it as an adult playground.

You can indulge intellectually,

creatively, sexually. It's your choice at

Burning Man. (Tyler) Well, it's definitely a place

where you can experiment and where like

the energy is conducive to exploring

yourself and exploring different other

styles and kind of incorporating those

styles into your own style.

(James) it helps create an awareness that the

world needs to be reminded that things

can work in magical ways and there is so

much amazing energy out there that I

think it's a great thing to go once a

year and have a reality check. (Tyler) The first time

I really started wearing funky clothes, I

think it would probably have to be my

first year at Burning Man. I had this little

yellow ensemble and it was absolutely my

favorite outfit to wear during the day at

Burning Man, my first year. It was a little

teeny yellow miniskirt with a

yellow crop top. It was just so fun and

playful and bright yellow. (Astro) If there's

been one piece of clothing that I would

say it was number one in my entire

collection, it is the fur-kini and it

is a faux fur speedo, if you will. That's

how we describe it. Imagine a speedo

bathing suit made of fur. It wasn't

invented by me and I can't take credit for

it.

James, costume designer James Hayes came

up with it. (James) My name is James Hayes and I

make costumes for a living. I'm really

lucky.

This is a very popular one. We make

fur-kinis and take them to Burning Man

and we give them to people that are

costume challenged.

Isn't that cool? It's gonna look so good.

(Man) I got my fur-kini yesterday and

my life has been changed ever since.

(James) It's amazing what it does for someone

when they can shed the shell that they

normally have in the real world or

whatever it's called, the default world,

and then they get to this new place and

they can put on something that is a new

representation of them and it

just brings so much joy into their life. We

can't stop. We have to do it every year

now. We have to give people fur-kinis. (Man) And

it's always surprising. Each kind of fur

has its own personality so it's fun to

like change and have lots of options,

but the cool thing is how it's

constructed.

(James) I draped it like you would a dress. Like

I used muslin and I've stuffed the

crotch, you know, of the… I used some

polyfill. I've made the shape and then I

draped it with muslin and I made a

pattern and that’s how I

created it the first time. This is the

pattern and this is the where your

leg is and this is the waist. So you

see, if you put all these darts together,

when you sew it, it creates a shape just

like a butt cheek. [laugh]

So not only is the fur-kini fun to wear,

but it makes anyone look good. It looks

good on anyone because it gives you a

bum.

(Astro) It is impeccably designed, or should I

say engineered, with something called CET

and CET stands for crotch enhancement

technology, and if you just

want to look at the crotch portion of

the fur-kini,

it has been designed, engineered, and

manufactured to exacting specifications

to produce the maximum type of crotch

enhancement that anyone would want to

have while wearing the fabulous fur-kini.

(James) At the front, this is the top and this is where

the crotch goes and the crotch… I don't

even think I can make this one go

together because it's so many darts, but

this is the front. This is a

piece and these pieces all come together

to create a giant orb, which you can see

when you look at this. (Woman) Well, he keeps

looking in the mirror and telling me that I

am very lucky that he’s my boyfriend. [laugh] (Astro) Notice that from a profile, that there is a

bulge. It doesn't matter how the person

wearing the fur-kini is endowed or how

much they think they're endowed or not

endowed or whatever, it's not the point.

The point is it’s soft, it’s furry, it’s

approachable,

it's the amazing fur-kini. (James) I think the

world needs more fur-kinis and I

think America is a great place because I

can do this

and be free to to create the fur-kini

and distribute it and make people happy.

(Man) The shyer guys will go for the honey

Brown. (Denise) Really? (Man) Unless their girlfriends are

with them and they're like no, go for

the purple one. (Denise) Why do you think that is? (Man) I think guys are used to

like neutral colors. (Tyler) The colors all

started with the red outfit.

I was the Red Minister. There was the red

bag filled with all my red clothing.

Other fun red stuff… socks… these

panties I actually found at Burning

Man… and the first red shirt was this

Venomous Venom shirt.

So we silk-screened ourselves. Soon after

the Venomous Venom came the tank top. Kuh-tsh! I know. And

what's a red outfit without a big red

coat? Nice handmade red scarf.

Sometimes there's just these special

articles of clothing that you have to

accessorize, you have to like base it

around. These would be my very very

special pants.

I based my red outfit off of that.

(Kevin) The sweetest canvas that we have is our

bodies and so to be able to play with

our bodies and to be able to paint our

bodies and dress and celebrate is

such a critical piece of… it's a

core of what Burning Man is.

(Denise) Can you tell me about your first time at

Burning Man and what it was like, what

you wore, what you saw people wearing, and

how you felt about it when you first

arrived? (Kevin) There were a couple things

happening for me. There was a part of me

that was shocked and surprised at how

free people were and the majority of

people were naked and/or they had

decorated themselves or they were… they

spent, obviously invested an immense

amount of time, immense amount of effort,

money in their costumes and in their

outfits and so there's a part of me that

was really surprised at that and

then there's also part of me that was

felt very comfortable and felt that this

is what I had always wanted. This is what

I had always wanted to do, but maybe I

just hadn't been brave enough and so a

lot of the first year was this balance,

honestly kind of back and forth, a little

between like covering my eyes and

just going wow, that's, you know, one of

the most beautiful things I've ever seen

and one of the most beautiful people,

person, woman, man that I've ever

seen. (Pxl) It's definitely a cool cultural

space where, you know, I can feel free to

wear this skirt, you know, and even a shorter

one and like not worry that someone's

gonna fuck with me or like, you know,

cat call me or beat me up or like any of

that shit. (Denise) When did you start wearing skirts?

Like, what was the first time?

(Pxll) Um…

(Man) I started wearing skirts. It's kind of

like a rebellious thing because it was

like boys don't wear skirts and then I

started getting a lot of attention

from it because like girls like boys in

skirts. (Pxl) I guess I first got like kind of

a kilt? I went to a thrift store had

found what looked kind of like a kilt,

but it was actually I think a girl’s skirt.

That was the first one and I just really

enjoyed it and then a few years ago

started wearing them more, kind of

getting more of them, feeling more free

to express myself that way. I like to

wear them like in combinations usually

so they look a little less like I am

straight cross-dressing and more like

I'm just like appropriating. (James) It feels

like our world is the way it is for

money and for economy, you know?

Only wear regular clothes that you buy in a

store. Don't make your own thing to wear

because people are gonna think

you're weird. So, you know, I feel like

that's fostered, you know, to keep us all

shopping or something so it's so great

to just come up with something and throw

it on and go and I think that

helps people. Burning Man helps people

figure that out. (Pxl) I don't really get the

gender restrictions. Like, I mean, I

understand that people want to like

create these molds about how we have to

act, but like I just don't get it. There are

so many times when I want to be

vulnerable or when I want to be… I

mean it's like the full… I want to

experience the full range of what

we're supposed to be able to engage

ourselves as humans.

(Man) In America, there's

male persona. In India, there's a male

persona. In Germnay, Holland, there’s male

personas.

All around the world like they kind of

disagree and they're kind of similar

and I think I would like to embody like

the greater good of humanity and not be

like so limited to like what an American

male is, you know? Like what a European male is.

(Tyler) I think the thing about dressing up,

especially in public, was not that it was

okay, but that it was not okay because

I've always been the type to do things

that I'm not supposed to do. I like it

when people mix it up and kind of like

question the boundaries of their style

and push other people to do that

as well because it kind of awakens

something inside of us. (Astro) You can change

the way people perceive you by the way

you use certain shapes on your body and

the two things you want to do is you

want to make your shoulders always look

wider and anytime you can be taller, it's

a good thing too, those two things

together. So I feel like that I’ve become

somewhat of an expert of puffing myself

up and adding form and and mass to parts

of my body to make them look larger than

they are so that other parts of my body

are either completely ignored or

downsized and diminished and again

one of the easiest ways to do it is to

make your shoulders look wider. Soon as

you make your shoulders look wider, your

waist automatically looks thinner, and if

you want to look masculine, it's one of

the easiest ways to make yourself look

masculine is just to give yourself a

bigger shoulder profile.

(Pxl) And it's like our clothing, it's like a

protection or a projection of

ourselves and so much about

feminine clothing projects like a

vulnerability or an openness or, you know,

things like that and like so much of

masculine clothes tend to be, you know,

really confining, restricting, protecting,

that kind of thing and so I like

to mix it up, you know, depending on how

I'm feeling.

(Denise) Are you ever concerned about how people

perceive your sexuality? (Tyler) I was concerned

about that for a while, for a little bit,

just a tiny bit. (Kevin) It's actually more a

need to connect, a need to belong, a need

to be seen, and in our present-day

understanding, that gets masked or

defined as sexuality. (Tyler) I was a little bit

concerned like everyone would think I

was gay, you know, and I wouldn't like

have any interaction with the females,

but my very first time dressing up in

public, I guess, you were saying, that fear was

quenched or quelched because the girls

were all over me. Like I had to beat them off

with sticks.

So that also kind of became a reason

for dressing up. (Man) Ultimately, like, my

expectation seems to be just to be

attractive.

No one wants people to walk around looking ugly, you know,

because then you don't enjoy looking at

them, you know, and people want to like

enjoy their senses. So I feel like a lot

of times like, you know, I'll be dressed

really weird and people will be like, oh, he

looks kind… you know, like is he gay? Like

that's a big question that comes up, and

ultimately, I don't ever think about it

because I’m really just more concerned

about if I look good. (Kevin) Our clothing, to me,

has been a part of the story that we are

telling, part of the story that we are

putting into the world.

(Pxl) It says “and yes I do think we should

walk and bike more and fly and drive less

and grow our own organic food and herbs and the

power of love is greater than the love

of power and I love this fucking planet and

trees are really important and

revolution is a state of mind and I hope

there's…” is it… and I hope there's still

some polar bears around when I die?

What's the next bit after revolution?

(Denise) Um, can you lift your shirt up a little? Thanks.

Uh, let’s see… “Revolution is a state of mind and I hope there are still some polar bears around

when I die…” (Pxl) …and many worlds, right? (Denise) Worlds.

(Pxl) “…are possible and love is an ocean

without shores and peace of a dream worth

living” and then it's gonna go around one

more time and then down my hip, I think,

and down my leg.

It'll probably say somewhere, “and being

naked is free and I like being touched

here” and like a few other things. I'm not

sure. (Astro) Because I like outer space, I’m

Astronaughty. The first types of textiles

that I used to make my costumes were

things like nylon and metal and velcro

and elastic and very, you know, industrial

materials, industrial things that

astronauts would wear. I like that

personally and I thought it was…

My costumes were interesting, but people

were put off by them. It

was almost like I was wearing like a

leather outfit. It was interpreted

as being the same kind of thing as being

like fetish-y, but it was fashion to

me. It wasn't a fetish. I wasn't like… I

don't have to have sexual experience in

nylon, but I think it looks kind of cool,

but people found it really off-putting

and it took me a while to figure that

out, but the whole Astronaughty look came

out of Burning Man. It was about Burning

Man. It was about industrial materials. It

was about outer space and it

was a very interesting time in my life

to experiment with reinventing myself,

taking the joy that I had as a ten year

old being into astronauts and then

that's what, if I would

have to say to somebody what

did Burning Man do for you personally, it

made me feel, not just okay about getting

in touch with my 10 year old, it told me

that it was a fabulous wonderful thing

that contributes to the evolution of the

universe if you get in touch with your

10 year old because the spontaneity and

the joy and the creativity you have

as a 10 year old or had as a 10 year old,

in the body of an adult who has means

and ways to accomplish things, can create

wonderful and amazing things in the

world and I feel like that's

what I'm going through is that

that I got back in touch with the 10

year old who wanted to be an astronaut

when the man landed on the moon. That was

my biggest dream in the world. Like, I

remember sitting on the porch of my

parents’ house looking at

the moon and there are people walking

around out there and I was obsessed

with that whole thing. So at the age of

43 to discover

I'm gonna be an astronaut all of a

Sudden, I'm gonna create my own

astronaut adventure, and Burning Man is

like another planet.

(Tyler) I was raised Mormon and of course

there's so many things you can't do when

you're Mormon, you know? How

can you possibly live up to those

standards? And so I kind of got off on

being bad and like doing things I wasn't

supposed to do, and I think, to a degree, I

get a thrill out of dressing up because,

you know, something deep down inside me

says that's something that you're not

supposed to do. (Kevin) The community that I grew

up in had this immense impact on my

style and what I felt I could do and

couldn't do. I grew up in England, but in

a Jamaican community in England and the

Jamaican community in England, you know,

they crossed an ocean to come be in

England and assimilation was key and

that extended also into what I could

wear and what I could do and couldn't do.

So I wasn't supposed to wear anything

edgy or do anything that's going to make

me stand out in any way just in case I

brought embarrassment onto my family or

onto the community.

What I realized recently in the last

month is that really a lot of what I've

been wearing for a long time, I've been

wearing to cover up, I've been wearing as

default, and so I'm in this process where

I'm going through this discovery of what

my style is. I have bits and pieces,

sprinklings of what really does feel

right and what feels good and I'm

immensely glad that I'm here at Burning

Man cuz I get to kind of test all those

things and try all those things and it

will absolutely inform and transform the

way that I dress when I get back to

California. (Denise) Where you scared at first? (Tyler) To be dressing up and going

Out? (Denise) Mmhm. (Tyler) Yeah. (Astro) The leap. I've been doing this now for

eight years and I always have stage

fright. (Tyler) I still… I am still scared. I

still have, you know… When I get up and I

go out like this, I still have this

feeling that someone's gonna come up to

me and be like, ‘you’re a faggot.’ I mean, I guess I

don't have that fear. I just have a

little bit of anxiety maybe. (James) There are

lots of ways to help, so this is my way

of helping. I think it's silly that a fur-kini

could help the world, but it’s true. [laugh] It is.

(Kevin) Are you putting something on to cover up?

Are you putting something on to accentuate? Are you

putting something on to become something

different? Burning Man allows all of that

and it brings all of that into

being in a really

profound way. What I mean by that is,

you know, you wear something and someone

will come up to you, I guarantee, they'll

come up to you and say, ‘wow, that's really

amazing’ or ‘that's very interesting’ and

this is the reason why. It's like

this… almost this like instant feedback

loop. (James) We're gonna do more. 50 more. People

are gonna be effected this year. [laugh] Hundreds. I’m sure they’ll affect and yeah.

It’s a chain reaction.

[Dance music]

(Man) So I started in like 2001.

I was amazed people were coming up to me.

Last year was my first Burning Man and it was also probably the first time that I ever…

And so I just… what could I do?

[Loud overlapping chatter]

[Dance Music]