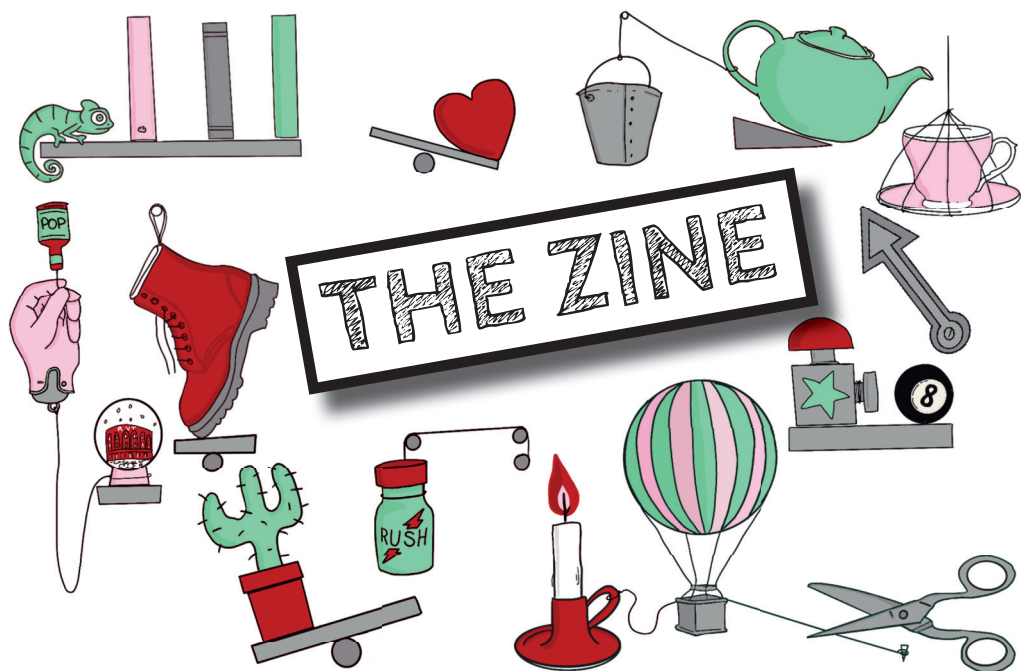


DR DUCKIE

Homemade Mutant Hope Machines



WHO is Dr Duckie?

Dr Duckie - aka Ben Walters - is the in-house bent boffin for veteran LGBTQ club runners Duckie. He did a PhD about some Duckie projects that help people without much clout build better worlds on their own terms - see more on these in the 'Hope Machine Spotlight' boxes. Now, with society up the spout and everything up for grabs, we want to share the resulting ideas far and wide. You never know, they might help a bit.



WHAT are homemade mutant hope machines?

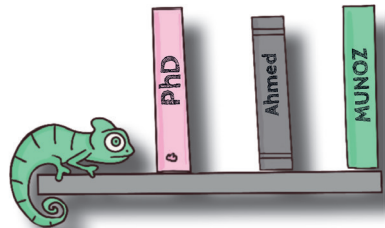
Emergent, autonomous and adaptive forms and processes that routinely generate hope in the possibility of better worlds for people on the margins. And they're what this zine is all about!

In these pages you'll find the key ideas from Dr Duckie's research. They're both a way of understanding amazing projects that are already out there making better worlds, and a toolkit to help bring new projects into being. So get stuck in, girls - utopia ain't gonna build itself.

HOW is this actual academic research?

Dr Duckie's thinking is inspired by José Esteban Muñoz's brilliant research on 'queer futurity': the idea that outsiders can work toward better worlds through collective hope. Dr Duckie extends this approach with the idea of 'reproductive queer futurity': routinely reproducing collective outsider hope through ongoing, sustainable forms and processes.

His PhD was supervised by Catherine Silverstone in the Department of Drama at Queen Mary University of London and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.



HOPE
MACHINE
SPOTLIGHT

VINTAGE EVENTS

Duckie's 'vintage clubbing events' are nightlife spectacles that bring lost party scenes from London's queer past back to life. They shine a light on a powerful lineage of queer fun and show how understanding it can help build better queer futures.



HOPE MACHINES

HOPE is...

... believing that - even though life is often hard and the deck is stacked against so many people in so many ways - better worlds are possible. That's it. Hope doesn't even mean believing those better worlds are definitely coming. Just that it's possible.

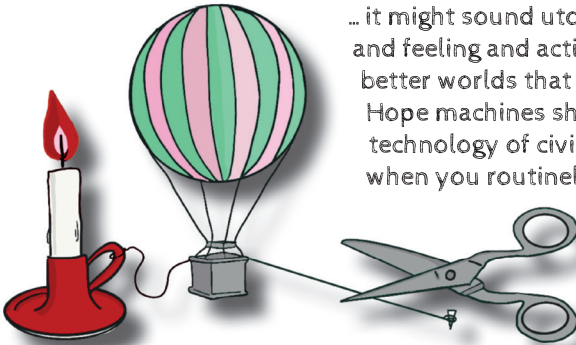


HOPE MACHINES are...

... any form or process that routinely generates and affirms hope. Something that reliably makes you believe a better world might just come into being: the journal or sketchbook under your bed or that fun night out that hits the spot like no other or a group effort to change the world. And they can be reproduced - make 'em once, you can make 'em again. Small steps, perhaps - but steady progress in the right direction.

THEY MATTER because...

... it might sound utopian but it's only by thinking and feeling and acting together toward imagined better worlds that we can bring them into being. Hope machines show how hope can be a pragmatic technology of civic change. They prove that, when you routinely behave as if better worlds are possible, those worlds start to appear - one deed, one day, one dance at a time.



THE POSH CLUB

An exquisite and outrageous afternoon cabaret for older people who might not have many friends or family - and a launchpad for fabulously fruitful experiments in dressing up, dancing and performing.



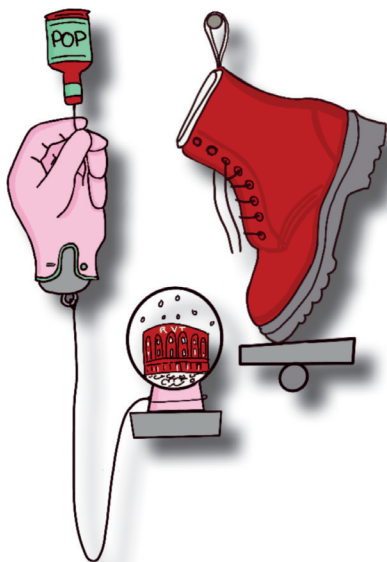
What makes a HOMEMADE MUTANT hope machine?

HOMEMADE

If a hope machine really meets the wants and needs of the people it's for, it's probably better if it emerges out of their own lived experience, rather than being imposed from outside.

And it's also good if it's able to set its own goals and work toward them on its own terms - if it's able to operate autonomously, even if that makes it a bit rough round the edges.

Those things together mean that the best hope machines are homemade.

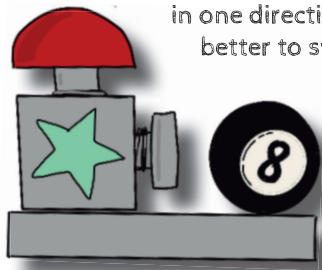


MUTANT

A hope machine might start out going in one direction, then find it's even better to swerve off and follow another

one. Plus lots of outsider or queer people's lives can be subject to unexpected change.

So it's good if hope machines can adapt to changing conditions - meaning the best hope machines are also mutant.



HOPE
MACHINE
SPOTLIGHT

QTIBPOC CREATIVES

Duckie's cabaret summer schools evolved into a running programme working with young working-class performers who are queer, trans and intersex Black and people of colour - building wellbeing, community, artistic experiment and professional development.



How to TURBOCHARGE a homemade mutant hope machine

Dr Duckie's research found three great ways to put a rocket under a hope machine to boost its power to start building better worlds

PARTICIPATORY PERFORMANCE

This could be a singalong or a cabaret show or an event created and delivered by the members of a group. It's a great icebreaker that helps build community. And, by showing that we can be more than passive spectators in the context of a show, it models ways of using our agency in the wider world to bring about change.

QUEER FUN

Fun is underrated! It's often seen as totally trivial. But people having fun allow themselves to try new things. And people observing fun don't pay much attention. So fun can enable civic experimentation with reduced scrutiny - it's an undercover training ground for utopia!

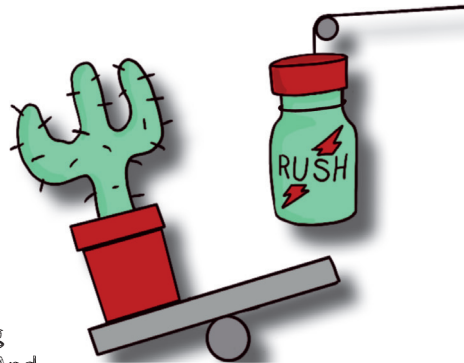
This is great for hope machines. You can find new ways of thinking, feeling, relating and acting - 'queer fun' that plays by its own radical rules. And you can use these new ways to intervene in the existing world - or as to build whole new worlds - or both.

QUEER FAMILY

'Queer family' can be a way of understanding forms of collective love and care that sit outside the traditional family.

These can offer vital forms of material support - from basics such as food and shelter to vocational training or changes to the law.

And they can enable connection across generations, so outsiders of different ages can pool their experience and expertise and make better futures together.



DR. DUCKIE:

"HOMEMADE MUTANT HOPE MACHINES"

REPRODUCTIVE

QUEER

FUTURITY

THEORY



PRACTICE

HOMEMADE

MUTANT

HOPE MACHINE

EMERGENT

ADAPTIVE

ROUTINE OUTPUT

AUTONOMOUS

REPRODUCIBLE

PARTICIPATORY PERFORMANCE

AGENCY

COMMUNITY

QUEER FUN

INTERVENTION

CREATION

QUEER FAMILY

MATERIAL SUPPORT

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION

Some of our favourite HOPE MACHINES

Catwalk4Power

Celebrating women living with HIV through performance and community events
c4ptoolkit.positivelyuk.org



The Cocoa Butter Club

Cabaret collective showcasing and celebrating performers of colour
thecocoabutterclub.com



The Hart Club

Enabling and championing neurodiversity in the arts
hartclub.org

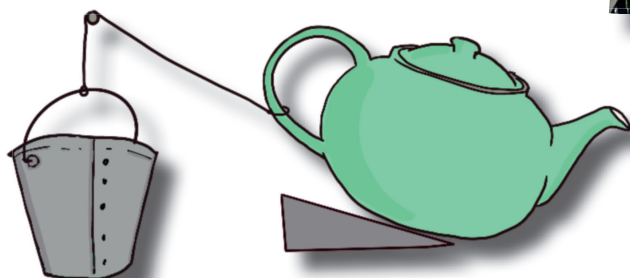


Gendered Intelligence Camping Trips

Young people's getaways from the charity that supports trans people
genderedintelligence.co.uk/camping.html

PEACH

Powerhouse residents' group standing up for jobs, housing, safety and health
peach-el6.org.uk



**FIND OUT
MORE ONLINE**

To find out more about Dr Duckie's homemade mutant hope machines, go to duckie.co.uk/drduckie and do some of the following:

- **DOWNLOAD** a PDF of this zine
- **WATCH** Dr Duckie's hour-long talk about the ideas
- **READ** the whole flipping PhD if you really fancy
- **SHARE** your own homemade mutant hope machine

Learn more about all of Duckie's community projects at duckie.co.uk

Text by Ben Walters
Design by Zed & They Them Studio
Hart Club image by Paul Wright & Submit to Love Studios

Thanks to Annie Bowden, Tim Brunsden, Simon Casson, Dicky Eton, Tom Frederic, Ursula Martinez, Emmy Minton, Mark Whitelaw, Robin Whitmore and the whole Duckie community

This zine is dedicated to Catherine Silverstone



**★
DUCKIE**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**