

Interview Questions for Current Campus Organizers Part I: Getting Acquainted

1. Can you introduce yourself with your name, pronouns, and class year?

My name is Rosie Elliott. I use they/them and she/her pronouns. I am in the class of 2024 at Barnard College studying Dance and WGSS.

2. What do your queer identities mean to you?

My queer identities mean freedom: freedom from the confinement of totalizing and symbolically loaded labels. 'Woman' and 'Lesbian' do not capture the fullness of my lived experiences or the ways in which I navigate the world. For me Queerness encompasses so much more than my sexuality or my gender identity. It is an identity that shapes every part of my being. My queerness means I am 'non-normative' in the most positive and liberating sense of the word. It means to live boldly, to question the status quo, to live in line with my personal values instead of societal expectations in each and every moment. It means fluidity, the freedom to reinvent myself everyday, to express myself every day differently from the last without that impacting my queer sense of self. My queerness is the lens through which I see the world.

Part II: Campus Life

1. What impact does being at Barnard have on the way you understand and/or explore your identities?

On the one hand, Barnard gave me the space to explore my Queerness in a way I was never able to before. Especially growing up as a dancer, self exploration was frowned upon, seen as antithetical to ballet's goal of uniformity. On the other hand, Barnard as a historically women's college often makes me think that I disrupt their proud classification. That said, I definitely feel that there is space for me and that I am a respected and valued member of the community.

Part III: Organizing

1. What kind of organizing are you involved with on campus?

CoLab is a performing arts club that offers a safe space for artists to create work without limitations. I premiered a lesbian duet last Spring and was so proud to be able to share it with the Barnard community. I was also an Athena Fellow in the Spring, working towards challenging the gender binary in ballet.

a. How does your organizing intersect with queerness/transness on campus?

I am definitely more drawn to campus communities that explicitly embrace queer identities. For example, the Athena center promotes “women and non-binary entrepreneurs.” This made me feel welcome and supported.

2. What work needs to be done to strengthen the queer community at Barnard?

Part IV: Joy

1. How, if at all, does the term ‘queer joy’ resonate with you?
2. Can you tell me about a time you’ve experienced queer/trans joy during your undergrad experience? (This experience does not have to have to be directly affiliated with Barnard.)