Host: Is there a sort of a unifying, I guess, definition? Or the big question I want to ask is, like, what is ‘queer’ to you? Or what is ‘queer’ in Vancouver? Or is there sort of a common thread in queer identity that is coming out of these contributions that are coming from all over the place?

Interviewee: Well, for me, ‘queer,’ I use ‘queer’ to be inclusive of genderqueerness and sexuality queerness. I also use it to kind of signify that there's a political–that I've got a certain set of politics and certain political values.

The Queer Film Fest, because we're kind of under them. They–it's one of the most diverse events in Vancouver. It's really exciting to go to the Queer Film Fest for me because there's such a diversity of ages, economic groups, races, ethnicities. It's one of the main spaces where lesbians, gay men, and other queers kind of get together. So kind of building under what Out on Screen is doing. That's why we use the word ‘queer.’

Interestingly, when I was talking to some older gay men who were activists in the ‘70s, and initially they were really put off by the word ‘queer.’ One of them said, you know, I've worked so hard for gay to be accepted. Why would you–why would you do something under such a pejorative banner?

H: Right.

I: And I just kind of explained my thoughts on queerness and said, you know, I think we're coming to it from similar politics, like, political perspectives, and for me this is about documenting and honouring the queer activists or gay and lesbian activists of the past. So we can see all of the things that have changed, and it's about having discussions with the community today and providing access to information. So, I think him and I share a lot of the same viewpoints but we have different words to describe it.

H: Yeah.

I: What about queer in Montréal?

H: Uh huh, throwin’ it back!

I: Uh huh! [laughter]

H: I mean, I can't speak for Mel, or the whole city, but I will, I will. Yeah, I mean, I guess in terms of queerness it's very inclusive. If we're talking about Montréal, I mean, we both– we've got a Franco and an Anglo community as well–it's very diverse. You know, queer in terms of sexuality, but queer in terms of identity, you know. Straight, bi, trans people identify as queer.

That is [pause]. Mel has just written me a note: ‘queer not Franco.’ I'm not sure what you mean by that. What do you mean by that? Oh, here we go. Okay, now she's throwing pens at me. But I would say that in Montréal, ‘queer’ is very inclusive. And I guess you're saying the same thing. I think we're all on the same page in terms of identity. Now I'm rambling. But if you want to learn more about the Queer History Project, please visit queerhistoryproject.com. Thank you guys so much for talking to us. And keep us posted on everything that's going on with the queerhistoryproject.com and in Vancouver, because we'd love to have you on the show again.

I: Thanks so much for your interest.

H: Hey, no problem.

Both: Bye!

H: We were talking with Tara and Jen from the queerhistoryproject.com. And they tricked me and asked me a question and I was caught off guard. So I apologize if I have misrepresented anyone, including Mel who was throwing pens at me. We'll be back right after this song? Playing a little tune? Yeah. Yep, getting the nod.