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Children of the Revolution

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Masters

in

Creative Writing

At Massey University, Manawatu

New Zealand

Joanne Paulsen 2017

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all the administrative staff at Massey's Manawatu campus for their kindness and consideration over the duration of this project. I would also like to thank my supervisors Stuart Hoar and Dr Ian Huffer for their invaluable feedback and support.

Abstract

In his critically acclaimed essay ‘Mario Montez, For Shame’, which documents the humiliation of actor and drag queen Mario Montez during the filming of Andy Warhol’s *Screen Test 2* and *Chelsea Girls*, Douglas Crimp (70) asks: ‘What’s queer about shame?’ In this thesis I demonstrate that shame - specifically, shame experienced in regard to non-normative sexuality or gender identity – is inherent within both the construction and destabilisation of queer identity. To achieve this, I explore the relationship between shame and queer identity in Todd Haynes’ *Velvet Goldmine* and Neil Jordan’s *Breakfast on Pluto* in the sociohistorical context of Britain in the early 1970s, a time characterised by glam rock, ‘gender bending’ fashion and fluid sexual identity. This is a period of particular interest to me, both in regard to the identity politics which are the subject of this research and as part of my own personal history.

My full length screenplay *Gathering Day* is structured as a tandem narrative, thus enabling me to depict both (re)constructions of the past, and the present. Through the writing process itself, I am able to explore some aspects the relationship between shame and queer identity.

Key words: Shame, queer identity, glam rock, Britain, sociohistorical context.

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