

PROUD

An audio trail celebrating
LGBTQIA+ people in Manchester.

20TH AUGUST — 4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Brought to you by:



Proudly supporting Manchester Pride.
Curated by Heard Storytelling.

All images by Ahmani Vidal.

Manchester BID presents Proud, an audio-visual trail celebrating Manchester's LGBTQIA+ community. Curated by Heard Storytelling and proudly supporting Manchester Pride.

Work your way around the city's shopping streets to discover 20 beautiful large-scale living portraits. Scan the QR code next to each image to hear true spoken stories from LGBTQIA+ people who live or work in the city.

From the streets of Jamaica, stages of Manchester, dressing rooms of working men's clubs and the nation's TV screens, these tales take listeners on personal and candid journeys, all focused on the theme 'Proud', with the importance of representation at their core.

For further information head to: visitmanchester.com/proud



1 DARREN

Darren takes us on a journey through difficult beginnings as a child on Moss Side, moments of triumph and towards self-acceptance and living authentically in the place where he calls home.

SELFRIDGES, EXCHANGE SQUARE
FRONT ENTRANCE



2 THOMAS

Thomas and his soulmate know absolutely everything about each other... or do they? Secrets, heartbreak and true love.

SELFRIDGES, EXCHANGE SQUARE
FRONT ENTRANCE



3 BANKSIE

Manchester's Canals are the setting for a beautiful connection forged whilst navigating angry geese, railway tracks and lockdown life. Love can happen in the most simple of ways and knows no gender.

SELFRIDGES, EXCHANGE SQUARE
FRONT ENTRANCE



4 VIL

As a child, Vil throws open a dressing up box, taking delight in dressing up in princess gowns, with complete freedom of expression. But as her body begins to change with puberty, her dressing up box is replaced with a box society wants to put her in.

SELFRIDGES, EXCHANGE SQUARE
FRONT ENTRANCE



5 GARY

Discover why creating moments of inclusive joy and putting a smile on people's faces means so much to Gary.

SELFRIDGES, NEW CATHEDRAL STREET
SIDE ENTRANCE



6 REBECCA

Watching the DJ, Honey Dijon, play at Pride Festival set wheels in motion for Rebecca.

SELFRIDGES, CORPORATION STREET
SIDE ENTRANCE



7 BEN

When his best friend at school turns on him, his most unlikely ally comes to the rescue.

HARVEY NICHOLS, DEANSGATE
REAR ENTRANCE



8 NICOLE

Paralysed by the fear of everything she stands to lose if she leaves, she sits and waits. In her numbness a new thought creeps in - what does she stand to lose if she doesn't leave?

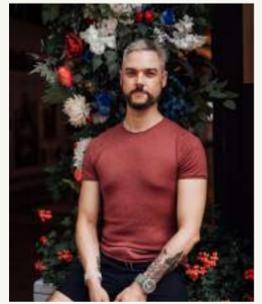
HARVEY NICHOLS, DEANSGATE
REAR ENTRANCE



9 ABIGAIL

From her childhood in Jamaica to a tattooist's chair in Manchester, Abigail takes us on a journey of discovery and revelations that's forever documented on her skin.

MANCHESTER ARNDALE,
LOWER MALL NEAR LEGO



10 JON

A train journey to a new city changes the trajectory of Jon's life.

MANCHESTER ARNDALE,
LOWER MALL NEAR LEGO



11 JOHNNY

Celebrating his 30th birthday, Johnny looks around and realises he feels something for the first time - peace. Now he'll do anything to protect that feeling at all costs.

MANCHESTER ARNDALE,
LOWER MALL NEAR LEGO



12 ALFIE

Alfie is approached by an unexpected fan after a gig. The importance of representation and having a strong ally is demonstrated in that moving moment.

ROYAL EXCHANGE OFFICES,
EXCHANGE STREET



13 AUGUSTINE

Augustine recounts the moment when his searching for a space to be 'all of who he is' comes to an end. The moment when 'otherness becomes brotherhood' and how he is creating that loving space for all of the 'beautiful parts of humanity'.

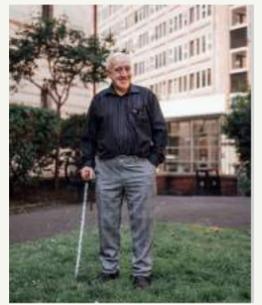
CROSS STREET CHAPEL,
CROSS STREET



14 JOSH

All roads lead to success for Josh... only this particular road was the Mancunian Way.

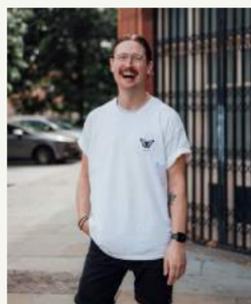
ROYAL EXCHANGE OFFICES,
CROSS STREET



15 NORMAN

Coming out as bisexual at 72 changed the course of Norman's life. A trip to the cinema with a friend takes him in a new direction.

HSBC, ST ANN'S SQUARE



16 KARL

A wake up call which quite literally saved his life. Embarking on a new life of sobriety, Karl opens up about what it's like to embrace life with both hands for the first time.

FRANCO MANCA, KING STREET



17 STUART

Stuart recalls his early years forming his important 'broken biscuit' group of close friends and how those friendships, and the city in which he lives and loves, has shaped him.

KUONI, KING STREET



18 JOHN

Growing up on the Isle of Man and in the shadow of Section 28, John struggled to find himself represented in the media or local community, until the show Queer As Folk aired in the 90s.

KALA BISTRO, KING STREET - UPPER



19 ALICE

What happens when you embrace life and opportunities with a big YES? For Alice, 'No' just isn't an option.

PINNACLE BUILDING,
KING STREET - UPPER



20 JEN

An unexpected letter from the Prime Minister is the start of a secretive journey to Buckingham Palace. Jen makes history along the way.

FRANCO MANCA, MOSELEY STREET