

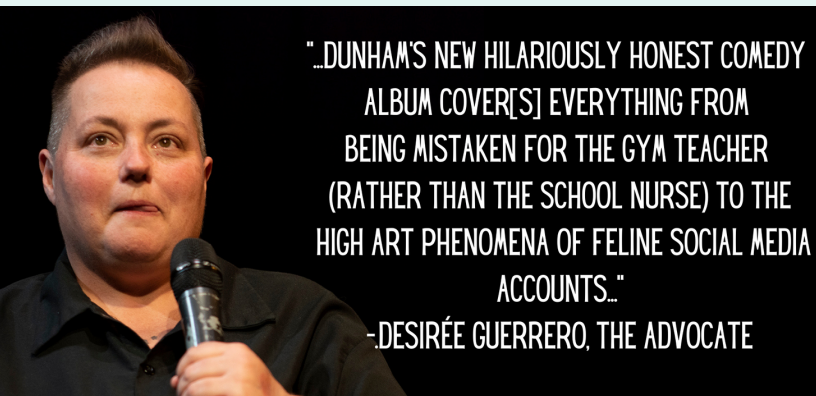
# KELLI DUNHAM

*FUNNY PERSON. SERIOUS TOPICS.*



Kelli Dunham is the nonbinary ex-nun storytelling nurse comic so common in modern Brooklyn. Kelli has appeared on Showtime and the Discovery Channel, the Moth Mainstage, the Cinderblock Comedy Festival, the Risk podcast, the Gotham Storytelling Festival, and nationwide at colleges, prides, fundraisers and even the occasional livestock auction. Kelli was nominated as a 2015 White House Champion of Change for her work as the co-founder and producer of *Queer Memoir*, was a *VelvetPark* magazine *Queer of the Year*, and named to the *Campus Pride Hotlist*. Kelli's writing has appeared on NPR.com, Refinery29, Thought Catalog, Autostraddle and the Lambda Literary Foundation website. Kelli's comedy CDs including "I am NOT a 12-Year-Old Boy" "Almost Pretty," and "Not The Gym Teacher" are all on regular rotation on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio's Rawdog Comedy Station.

New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio once called Kelli a show-off. To her face.



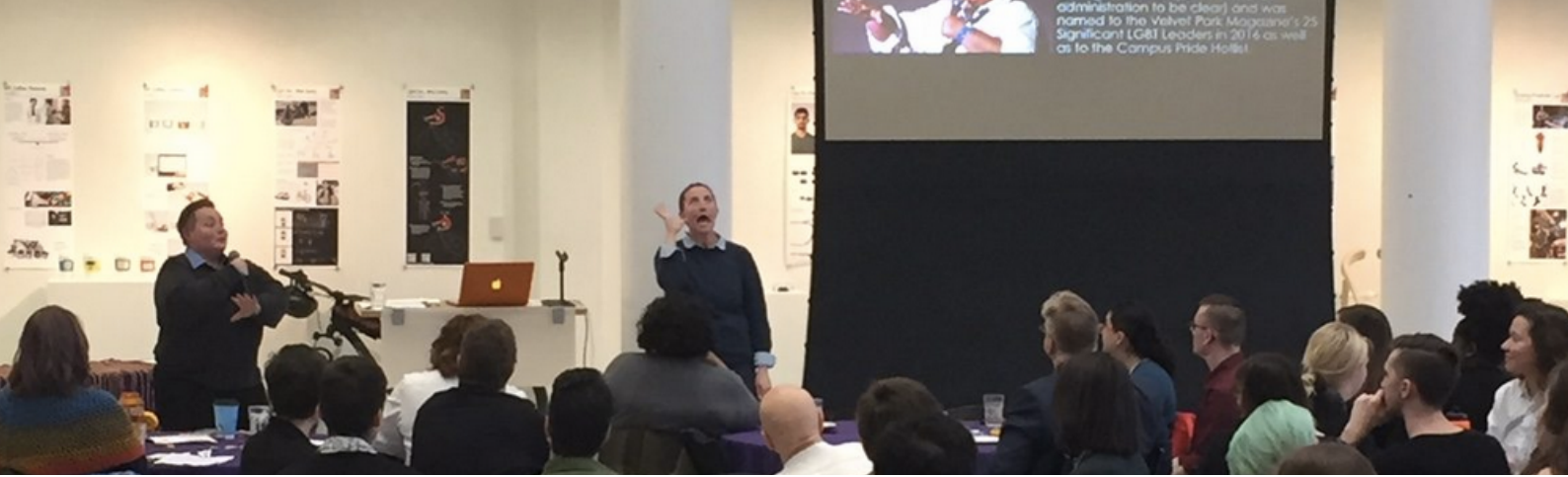
**Jackson Bird** @jackisnotabird 2d  
.@kellidunham's Radical Narratives workshop at #PTHC2015 was one of the more important things I've ever done. Seriously good stuff.

## PROGRAMMING FOR THIS MOMENT

This is a weird time, isn't it? Are we moving forward or just repeating the trauma and difficulty of the past few months? Students might still be home with homophobic or transphobic families and staff may be struggling to support students while dealing with their own grief and loss.

Kelli Dunham is a hilarious, experienced stand-up comic and workshop leader, and she's also very much the comedian for this moment. Kelli has been making comedy and sharing stories about serious illness and death for over a decade so she is able to bring the pandemic context into any presentation and still be funny without sounding glib.

Because Kelli is also an educator who has been working in the New York public high school for six years (the last year of it mostly remote), she is extremely familiar with the kind of online experiences that young people value and those that really don't work. And while you can certainly book Kelli for any of the award-winning presentations, shows and workshops she's known for and offered in the past, Kelli has designed some programming for LGBT college students that specifically addresses the current needs she is hearing about from campus leaders.



## WORKSHOPS

### FIGHT, FLIGHT, FREEZE, LAUGH

As queerfolx with a history of trauma, we know there is nothing funny about what has happened to us but we're always looking for better tools to manage the emotional and logistical impact of our post-trauma response. Enter intentional humor, stage left. In this workshop we'll learn the capacity (and limits) of laughter in mitigating our fight, flight and freeze responses, pick up some handy exercises to use in our own lives, and have a surprisingly good time for a workshop about trauma!

### HELP! I NEED SOMEBODY: THE QUEER ART OF ASKING FOR HELP

So many queer and transfolx are quick to help others but slow to accept help FROM others. In this workshop we'll consider how our help receiving skills compare with our help-giving skills, discuss why it's just as important to receive as to give, learn hands-on skills for becoming more comfortable with asking for help, and consider what mutual aid has to do with it all.

### QUEER MEMOIR ON CAMPUS

Tell your own story or someone will write it down, and sell it back to you, tarnished and unrecognizable! This workshop --using the same techniques and exercises Kelli has used in the production of the award-winning storytelling series Queer Memoir-- will guide participants through writing prompts and brainstorming to help them create a compelling first-person narrative. The workshop includes Kelli's guidance with creating a storytelling event if students want to share their work with a larger group.

### GRIEF: YOU'RE NOT DOING IT WRONG

Even before the pandemic, the LGBT community struggled with more than our share of grief. Now, in a health crisis that is becoming a grief crisis, how can we move forward? In this workshop we'll consider: what skills do we already have (as individuals and as a community) to support ourselves, our community and the greater world and what do we still need to develop? How can we process our own individual grief within the context of so much loss for so many and how can we stop feeling GUILTY for our own grief process?

## PRESENTATIONS

### GENDER REVEAL PARTY (POOPER)

The newsworthy disasters of Gender Reveal Parties do make you wonder: is it really going that poorly for the cishets? In this brand new show, nonbinary comedian Kelli Dunham hilariously confirms, indeed it is.

### NOT THE GYM TEACHER

Kelli's one-hour comedy/storytelling show (now an award-winning comedy album of the same name) in which you'll learn about how Kelli's relentless biological optimism causes problems while riding the subway, hear stories of Kelli's ongoing confusion and conflict with her long time ex, Jesus and you'll find out what --exactly-- is so funny about an exploding knee replacement.

### COMEDY/THERAPY

Building on Kelli's save line "comedy/therapy, it's such a fine distinction," this interactive presentation focuses on the use of "gallows humor" and how the human species has used humor to cope with even the most difficult situations.

**INTERESTED? YOU CAN READ TESTIMONIALS/GET MORE INFO [HERE](#), WATCH KELLI PERFORMING AT UPENN [HERE](#) OR JUST TEXT KELLI AT 215.964.1963 AND GET THE PARTY (OR WORKSHOP) STARTED).**