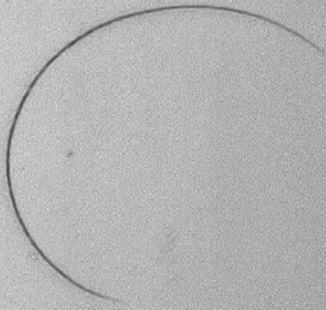


filth



AN
EROTOHISTORIOGRAPHY
IN
SEVEN OBJECTS

filth began in the shared bathroom of the four-bedroom former council flat in Hackney I had just moved into. There I found abandoned objects covered in dirt, grime and gunk: accumulations of historical matter and evidence of bodily contact. I didn't know who they belonged to. I imagined they had outlasted the tenancies of their owners, remnants of the coming and going that precarious renting in London makes so familiar.

These objects became an opening for conversations with my flatmates, who had lived here longer and who I felt might know more about the lives these objects had belonged to. We began by guessing who their owners might have been. From there, memories spilled out: bodily, off-colour, alive with humour and desire. The objects became openings, like holes and orifices, offering a two-way penetrability through which the past could re-enter the present.

This publication places photographs of seven of these abandoned objects alongside extracts from those conversations.

I draw on Elizabeth Freeman's term *erotohistoriography* to describe this process. *Erotohistoriography* is a tactile approach to history in which bodies, sensations and pleasures become ways of encountering and understanding the past.

filth is about seeing what can be found when circling the drain, dabbling in muck, and paying attention to the gutters of life.



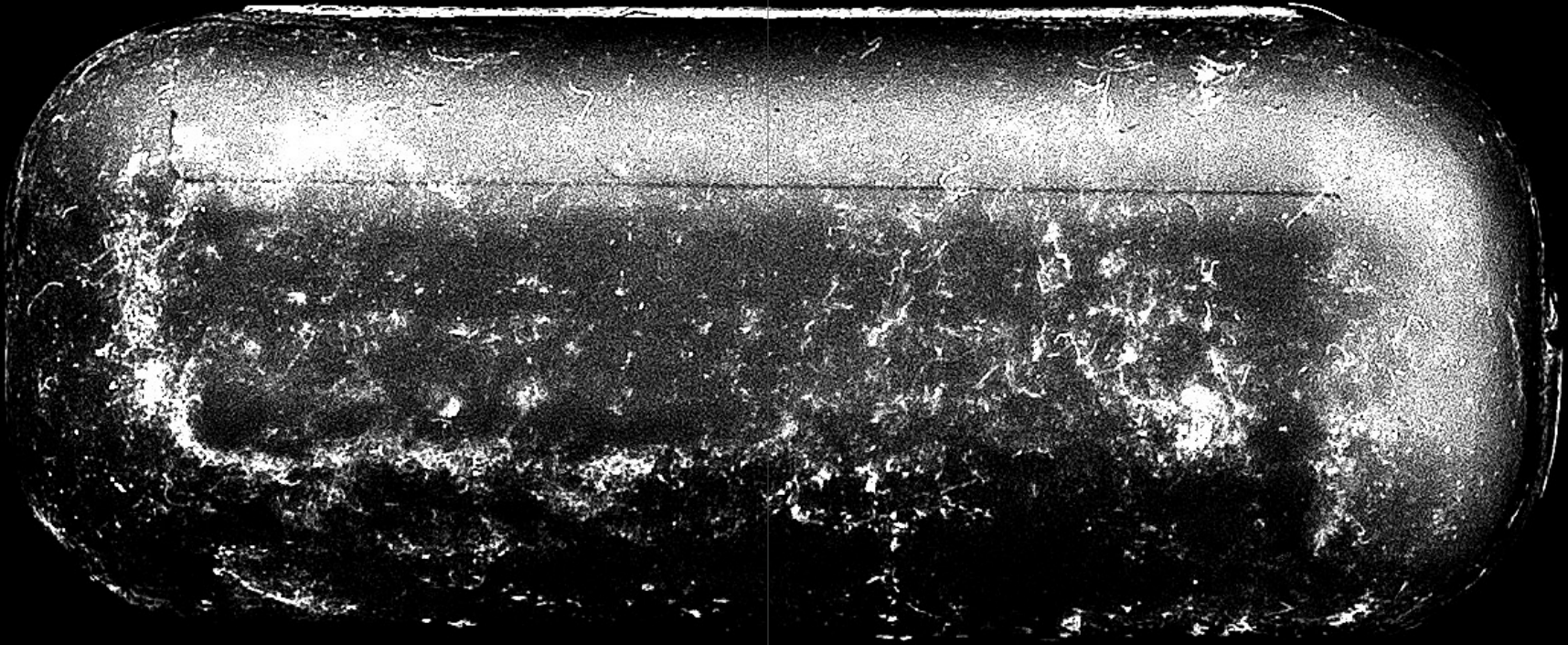




Extract, Butyrospermum
Sodium Benzoate
Diacetate, Lactic
Oleate, Hydroxypropyl
Glycol, CI 60730.

- CM like we once tabled the idea of like
douching together all at the same time
- JM like in a row?
- CM yeah, it was when sullivan was here
- JM goes without saying
- MP tell me more about that, who came
up with that idea?
- CM i think it was sullivan maybe or me,
like i would say it
- JM but like you would say it as a joke,
but he would be like, *can we do it?*
- CM exactly, i think it's because we were
going to like that howl pride thing and we
came back, and then he was like, *guys, there's
not going to be enough time to shower* and he
was like, *i want to douche*, then i was like, *well,
we can all just douche together*, but we didn't
obviously end up doing that, so that's kind of
salacious, but not really







CS

vincent was a flatmate that i lived with before with luke, and vincent was a belgian queer man who did voguing, and was the house mother of the house of versace, and voguing is a predominantly sort of black and latinx kind of thing, but he was a gigantic white bald man from belgium with a really funny voice, because he basically been quite excluded a lot at school in belgium and didn't really have like many friends, so he became quite an online person, and that's how he got into a ballroom and made loads of most of his friends online, but as a result of talking to all these people from like atlanta, he was like, *chile, you don't know why*, and that's how he spoke, even though he's from belgium, i mean, it was so good, i loved it



CS oli was nice, i barely spoke with him,
i barely saw him, to be honest, he was kind of
cute, yeah, he was very calm and he had big
dick energy, even though he was kind of tiny
as a person, very tiny as a person, vincent,
he was very funny, very flamboyant, he had
deadly one-liners, so he could dish it out very
quickly if he needed to, and he used to walk
walk around the flat in his in his tighty-whities,
and he always had massive, massive bulge

CM he was really cute, tall

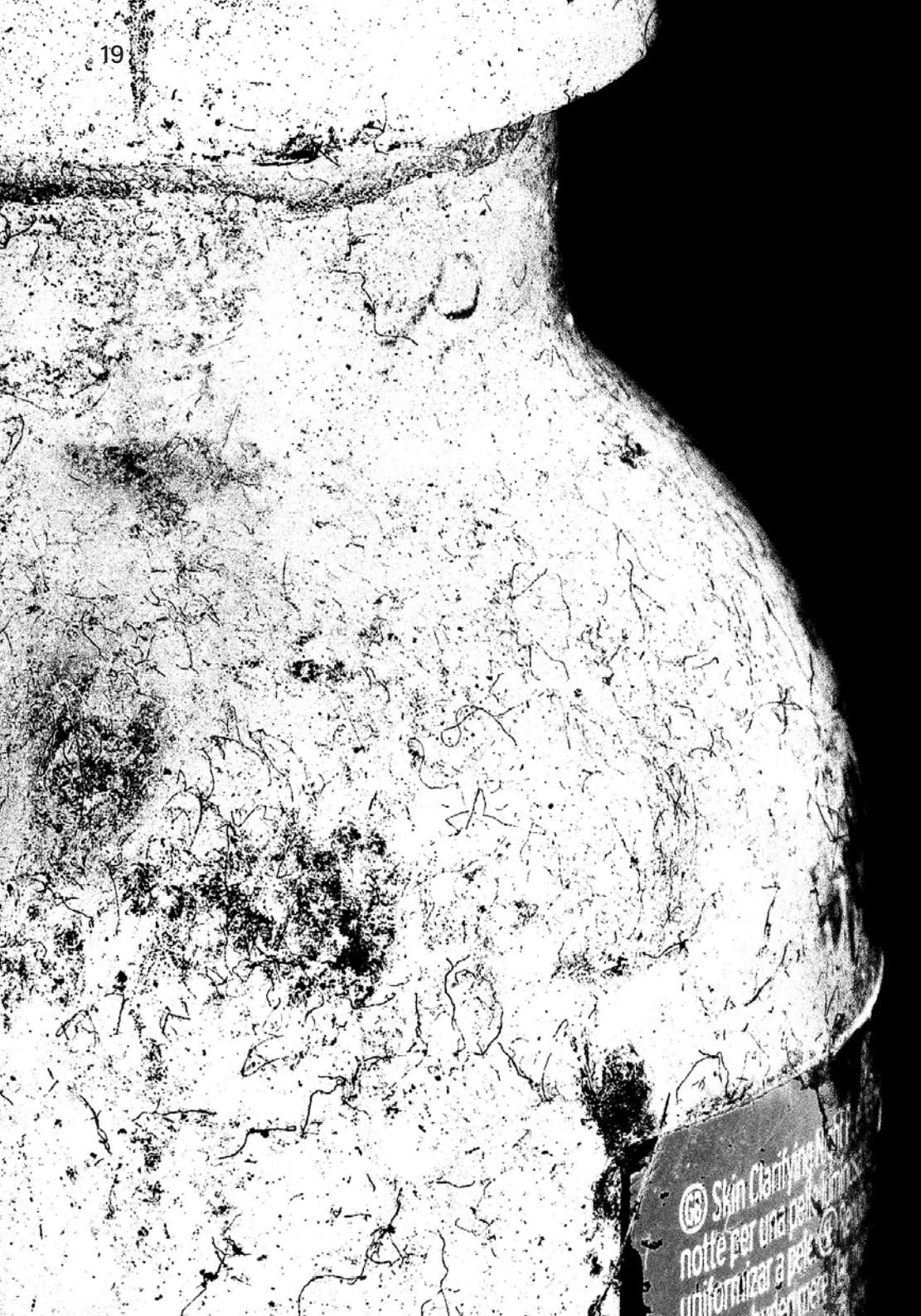
CS he had a massive dick as well, i saw
a picture of it at some point

CM i don't see vincent that way, i see
him having a vagina

CS i don't see him that way as well, but i
guess then he had an absolute massive strap-
on

CM he used to run around and he'd do
like high knees, you know, if you like, if i saw
him in the kitchen, and i like pinched his bum
or something, he'd do these high knees, even
though he was like six foot four





CM

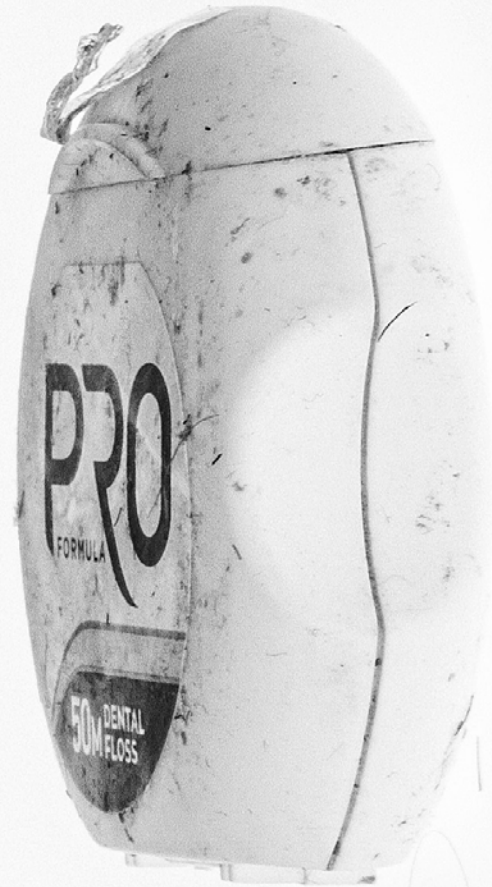
luke was trying to do this thing where you have to submit your blood by the post to get prep, right? then he kept fucking it up or whatever, or like not getting enough blood in the thing, and he was like, *harry, can you help me do the, whatever, like finger prick, or whatever it is?* and harry was like, *i'll just get a cannula and i'll cannulate you here in the living room* and then luke was like, oh, i don't know, and then eventually luke failed again, and he was like, *harry, i might need to take you up on your offer*, and then harry came in, he was like, *okay, sit down, i stole all the stuff from the hospital*, and then he put the, you know, like the rubber strap around his arm, and i was nurse, so i like swabbed him, and then i handed harry the syringe, and then i had to hand him something really quickly because he did the thing where like he had a bottle, so he tapped him and then he took it off and then he suddenly put a thing on it and then he had it and none of it spilled, which was really good

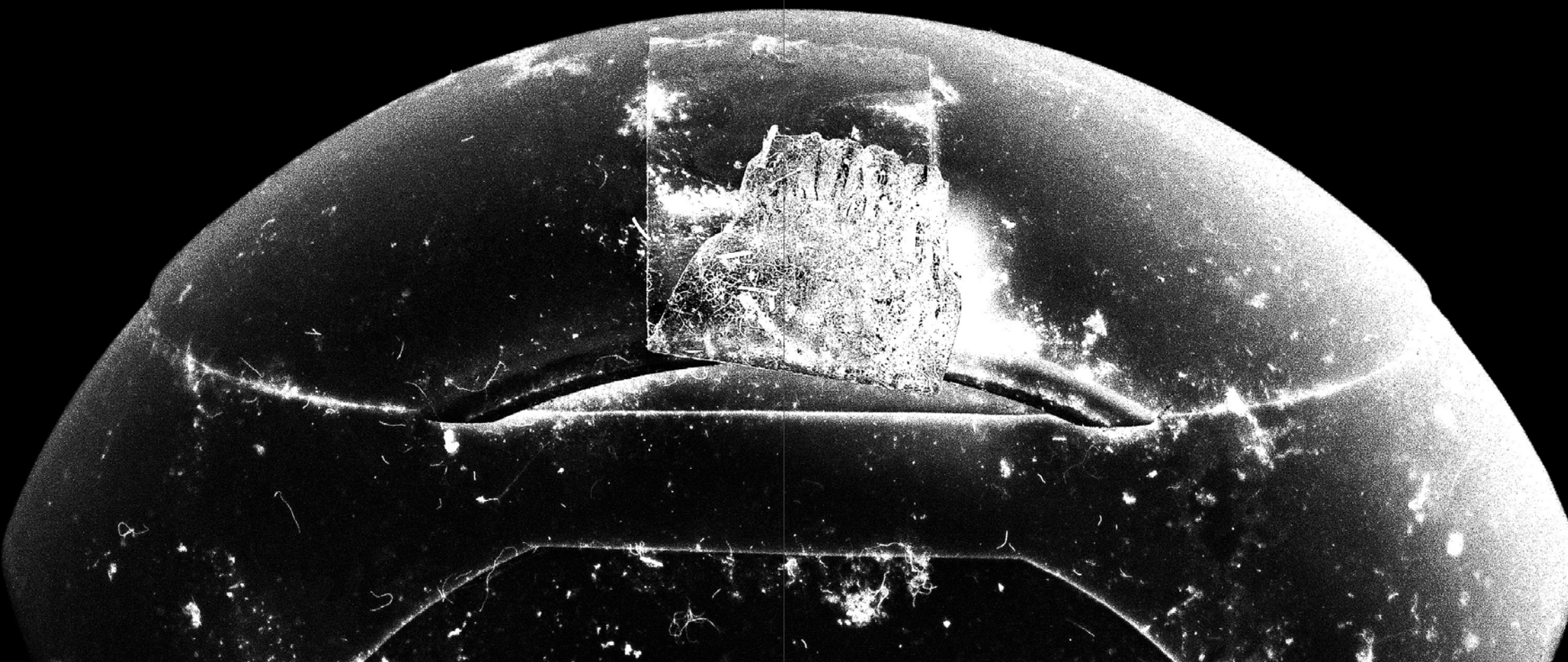
JM

all that for prep? i didn't, i thought you could just get it

CM

well, this would make it so that luke could get it by post

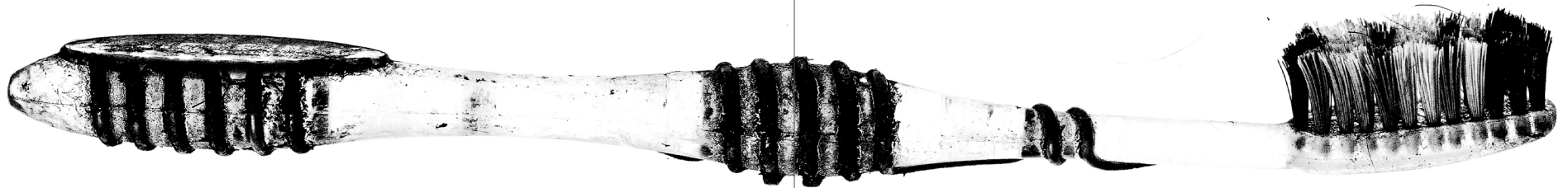








- CS sanjay used to love going to dark rooms and taking loads, and then telling us all about it the next day
- CM did he? i don't remember him doing that
- CS he was telling me about it
- CM he has a lebanese boyfriend—
- CS with a huge dick, that's what he said to me
- CM sanjay used to have a very specific type, he's like, *i like trolls with big dicks*, like troll-like white men
- JM like really ugly, like fat men?
- CM yeah, like beefy sort of daddy, kind of like a bit ugly, whatever, like, not ugly, but like not pretty





CS

one time sullivan was fucking this guy when he was at his sex party, and the guy basically painted his whole dick, and then what he did is he put his underwear back on, came home and went straight to bed without change of anything, just straight under his blanket, and then the second time it happened, we were at howl pride together, and then he was fucking this twink in the dark room, and then he said he pulled his dick out and the twink basically sprayed him with shit, like from the the, initially he said, from the chest down, but then he said he might might have exaggerated that bit, and then he basically came out of the dark room, naked, went to the bathroom quickly, washed himself a little bit, tried to hug his then boyfriend slash boy toy while still having shit on him, and then went home and got into bed without showering again

JC one time i was leaving the flat, and he was like on his way back into the flat, and he was like, *oh, like yeah, i've just been to primark*, i was like, oh, nice, what'd you get? and he shows me these, like, and it's like, you know, like grandad underwear, like quite loose-fitting, and he was like, *yeah, i've just had such a problem with smegma recently, so i had to get these*, i was like, *oh, okay, you know, we are in public, like, there's literally people around*

MP what was your favourite thing about sullivan?

CM about sullivan? i think it's just like, yeah, his like kind of unbridled energy, and he really wants everyone to like take part and stuff together

JM i agree, yeah, inclusive, yeah, i would say, yeah, his vivacity

CS one fun thing when i was out with sullivan, when we walked down the street, he had the same predisposition of checking guys out like i do, but then he would check someone out that would make me make a very disgusted face, and then i would check someone out, and he would make a very disgusted face, and then we just keep going like that

