

NOTE: Piece I wrote for Freedom Outpost which was never published. Screw 'em!

[September 20, 2018]

Social media exploded Tuesday with the "revelation" by former "*Sesame Street*" writer Mark Saltzman to LGBTQ web-zine *Queerty* that the series' beloved fixtures Bert and Ernie are more than just roommates.

WAY MORE!

How does Saltzman know that inanimate objects have sexual identities? Because he based his scripts for Bert and Ernie on his relationship with late film editor Arnold Glassman, that's why! (Glassman was "Bert" and Saltzman was "Ernie")¹ Saltzman now claims that his comments were misrepresented.²

Frank Oz, who created Bert with the late Jim Henson, denied on Twitter that Bert and Ernie are nothing more than reticulated polyfoam, as did the owner of "*Sesame Street*", Sesame Workshop. Note how Oz and Sesame Workshop twist themselves into pretzels in order to appease the "diversity and inclusion" mob:

Oz on Twitter: "It's fine that he feels they are. They're not, of course. But why that question? Does it really matter? Why the need to define people as only gay? There's much more to a human being than just straightness or gayness... When a character is created to be queer it is indeed important that the character be known as such. It is also important when a character who was not created queer, be accepted as such... What matters is that if people see positive views of themselves and others in B & E".

Sesame Workshop on Twitter: "As we have always said, Bert and Ernie are best friends. They were created to teach preschoolers that people can be good friends with those who are very different from themselves. Even though they are identified as male characters and possess many human traits and characteristics, they remain puppets, and do not have a sexual orientation."

Sesame Workshop Statement to NBC News: "'*Sesame Street*' has always stood for inclusion and acceptance... Bert and Ernie were created to be best friends, and to teach young children that people can get along with those who are very different from themselves."

The Mob wasn't buying it. Someone named Elizabeth Simins huffed on The Verge Sesame Workshop's statement was "ham-fisted", "patently ridiculous", and "harmful" to children questioning their identity (!), citing how "male" Muppets have "girlfriends" and "female" Muppets have "boyfriends".³ I don't know how reticulated polyfoam puppets manipulated by humans get their jollies, but I have a pretty-good idea how same-sex couples get theirs, and it's not by sleeping in separate beds, as Bert and Ernie have done since 1969!

However, the backlash isn't just The Mob howling with self-righteous indignation, it's The Mob giving Sesame Workshop a taste of its own woke medicine. Since the introduction of "black" Muppett Roosevelt Franklin in 1970 - dropped from the show in 1975 because of complaints that it promoted negative cultural stereotypes, despite its wild-popularity - "*Sesame Street*" has been virtue-signaling its way to riches, raking in \$121.6 million in 2016 alone.⁴ Problem is, once you set upon The Virtue-Signaling Road, there is no going back. Even if Sesame Workshop announce that Bert and Ernie are a couple, and have them "married" by a God-hating, cross-dressing, gender-fluid, intersectional Muppet tomorrow (a or drag queen; same thing), The Mob won't be satisfied. It never is.

So where does screenwriter Graham Moore fit into this casserole of crazy? In addition to "covering gay-oriented lifestyle and news", as its Wikipedia page puts it, Queerty's stock-in trade is "outing" people (and puppets) it has decided "need" to be outed for the good of the "cause", privacy rights be damned. It is no coincidence Saltzman dropped his bombshell at Queerty instead of the more-mainstream The Advocate, which slammed the crazed reaction to a Christian owner of an Indiana pizzeria saying she would refuse to cater a hypothetical same sex wedding as "gays gone wild".⁵ On a side note: If you're a publication striving to convince those who are not your target audience that your target audience is as normal as they are, why would you christen your publication with a word which means "abnormal" AND is an offensive term for "homosexual"?

But, I digress...

In deciding that Moore, who won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for "*The Imitation Game*" (a white-wash of the life of British computer scientist and LGBTQ hero Alan Turing) was One Of Us, columnist Les Fabian Brathwaite inadvertently exposed the "born that way" mantra as the sham it is. Brathwaite decided that Moore is gay based on nothing but the very stereotypes activists have been fighting against.⁶ Granted, Alpha Males do not make it a point to tell audiences at award shows to "stay weird" and blow kisses at them, but Moore's insistence that he does not identify as homosexual not only did not fly with The Usual Suspects, his post-acceptance speech comments were inverted deliberately to make it appear that he is homophobic!⁷

Oz asked rhetorically why does it matter if Bert and Ernie are "gay". Were he not such a touchy-feely progressive, he would have figured the answer out from the scathing replies he received. "Representation" - the word Oz was bombarded with ad nauseam - is code for "agenda", designed to annihilate traditional values at every level of society. And now that Bert and Ernie and Moore are "out and proud" - whether they like it or not - Oz and Sesame Workshop and Moore better get with the program, whether they like it or not!

SOURCES:

- [1] <https://www.queerty.com/exclusive-bert-ernie-couple-finally-answer-20180916>
- [2] <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/18/arts/television/bert-ernie-gay-sesame-street.html>
- [3] <https://www.theverge.com/2018/9/19/17879916/bert-ernie-gay-sesame-street-mark-saltzman-controversy>
- [4] <https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/big-bird-is-rich-so-why-does-he-need-taxpayer-money/>
- [5] <https://www.advocate.com/commentary/2015/04/13/op-ed-pink-mob-strikes-again>
- [6] <https://www.queerty.com/gaga-graham-moore-nphs-bulge-the-gayest-gifs-of-the-2015-oscars-20150223>
- [7] <https://slate.com/human-interest/2015/02/graham-moores-oscar-speech-equated-gay-with-weird-is-that-fair.html>