

# BALLROOM

HAS SOMETHING TO SAY

COMIC BY LAWRENCE LINDELL

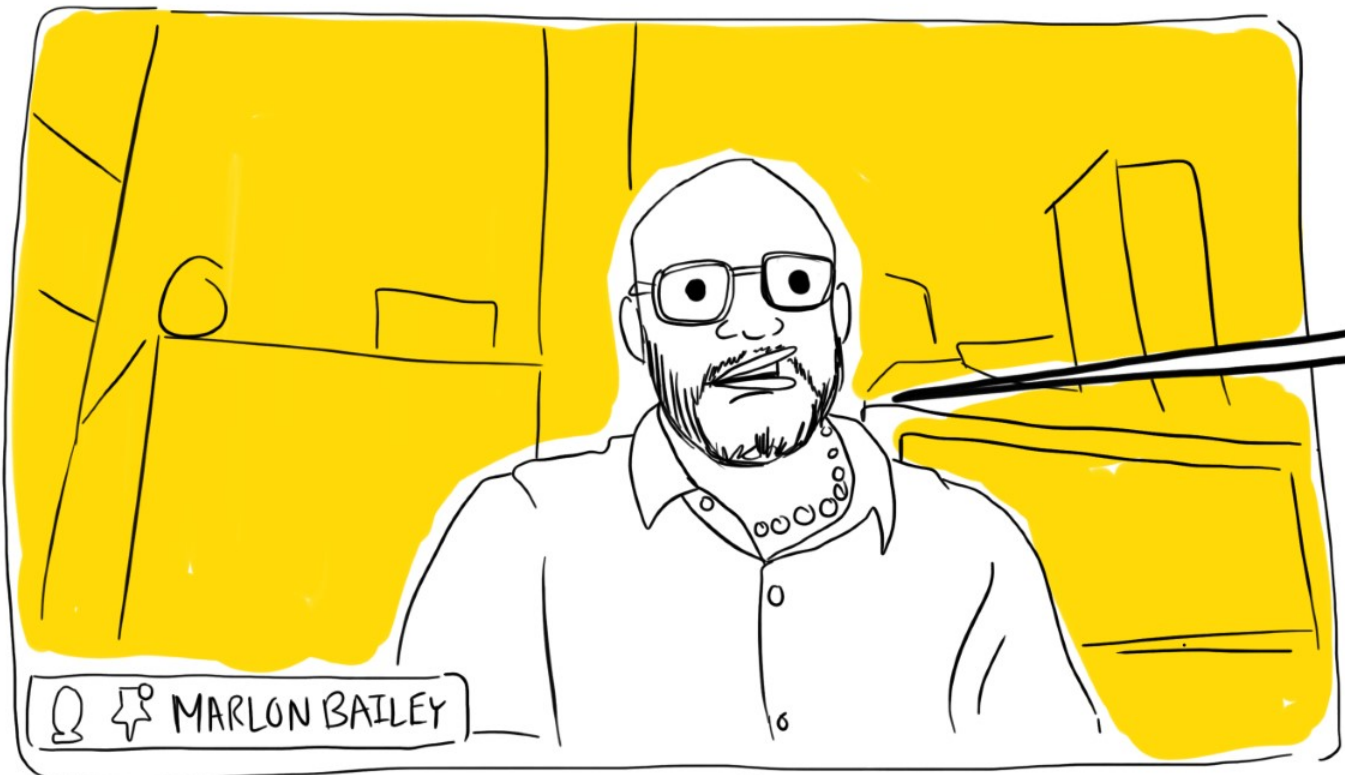


WHEN I HEARD MARLON BAILEY SAY "EXPRESS THAT THRIVING AT THE BALLS" I INSTANTLY THOUGHT OF HOW BALLROOM HAS DONE JUST THAT FOR ME. IN 2013, MY DEPRESSION WAS AT AN ALL TIME LOW, I WASN'T "OUT" YET, BUT WATCHING A BUNCH OF QUEER FOLX, ESPECIALLY THE BLACK ONES LOOK SO FREE AND COMFORTABLE WITH WHO THEY ARE ULTIMATLY GAVE ME THE INSIGHT AND COURAGE TO EMBRACE MYSELF AND KNOW THAT I TOO CAN NOT JUST SURVIVE, BUT THRIVE AND BE FREE.



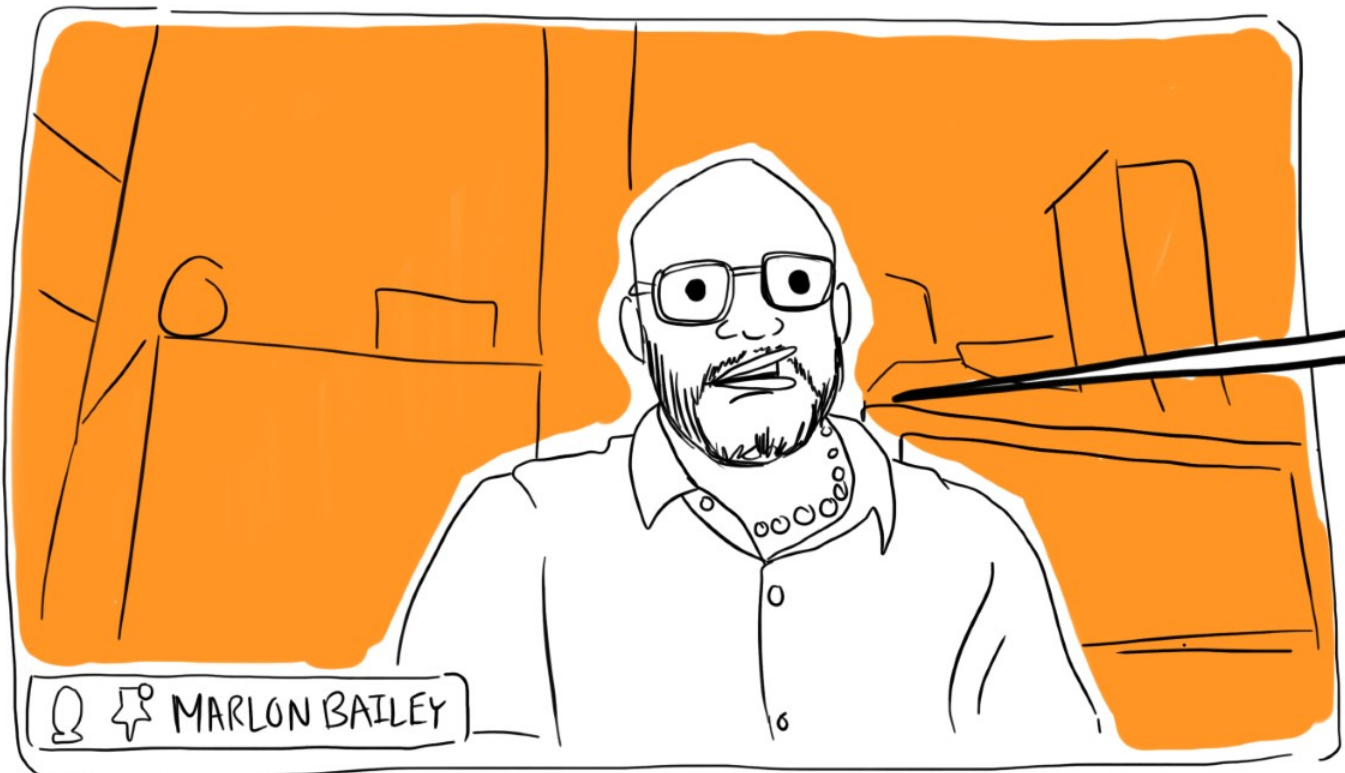
WE ARE A MODEL BECAUSE ONE THING WE KNOW IS THAT THE BLACK AND BROWN LGBTQ+ POPULATION HAVE ALWAYS HAD TO COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVE FORMATIONS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

BUT ALSO THERE IS A WAY WE HAVE TO THINK BEYOND SURVIVAL, BUT THRIVING.



AT THE END OF THE DAY, WHAT BALLROOM BRINGS US TO IS THE NOTION OF LIVING IS ABOUT LIVING WITH EACHOTHER, LOVING EACHOTHER, EMBRACING OUR CONTRADICTIONS AND LOVING EACHOTHER ANYWAY.

BALLROOM IS A COMMITMENT TO EACHOTHER, INTERPERSONALLY AND THE ABILITY TO EXPRESS THAT COMMITMENT, EXPRESS THAT THRIVING AND EXPRESS THAT EXPERIENCE AT THE BALLS.





I WAS INTRODUCED TO BALLROOM IN 2013. NOT IN PERSON THO, BUT VIA YOUTUBE. I WAS GOING THROUGH A DEPRESSION DOWNSWING BECAUSE OF MY BIPOLAR. THERE WERE DAYS WHEN I COULDN'T EVEN LEAVE THE BED, BUT WATCHING THE BALLS VIA YOUTUBE LIFTED MY SPIRIT A BIT.



← EVERYDAY I WOULD LAY AND WATCH THESE AMAZING LGBTQ+ PEOPLE DO INCREDIBLE THINGS.



YOU NEVER KNOW, YOU MIGHT  
SEE ME AT A BALL TRYING TO  
GET MY 10'S.

