

# Polari Press

## Autumn 2022



# CONTENTS

Current releases	3
Polari Poetry	8
About	14
Contacts & distribution	15

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# CURRENT RELEASES

pop & art

# You Otter Know

## The Bumper Edition

### Harry Clayton-Wright

A tender queer zine experience featuring the contributions of over twenty queer artists.

Initially commissioned by Homotopia as part of their Queer Art Always series in the first lockdown as a response to the cancellation of live work as a way to make and deliver work safely. Born out of a love of the graphic design of vintage erotica and saucy top shelf publications from the 70s, 80s and 90s, four issues of the zine were released digitally between June 2020 and June 2021.

This limited edition print omnibus brings together the work from all four issues and some new and unseen bonus content. Featuring art, humour, glossy photo spreads, illustrations, poetry, new writing and important life lessons from Harry Clayton-Wright and friends. Exploring sexuality, chronicling insights into sobriety, regaling entertaining personal history



and sharing the many lessons learned from a heady career in show-business.

Featuring work by: Harry Clayton-Wright, Travis Alabanza, TS Bodaysha, Fatt Butcher, Laura Catlow, Le Gateau Chocolat, Emma Frankland, David Hoyle, Krishna Isthia, Brendan Maclean, Brian and Karl, Holly Revell, Catherine Mugonyi, Stuart Linden Rhodes, mandla rae, Jose Loves Life, COAX, Garth Gratrix, Simba, STUDIOGRABDOWN, Symone, Claire Griffiths and David Wilson.

April 2021  
978-1-914237-01-0  
167x240mm Softcover  
£12 | 224 pages

Supported by Abingdon Studios, Homotopia, Marlborough Productions and Arts Council England



**HARRY CLAYTON-WRIGHT** is a performance artist, writer and radical creator from Blackpool whose work spans theatre, installation, zine and film. Harry's debut solo theatre show *Sex Education* premiered in 2017 winning the LGBTQ award at Brighton Fringe Festival and was nominated for a Total Theatre Award (Emerging Artist/Company) at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2019. Harry was also selected as one of British Council's Artists to Watch as part of the Edinburgh Showcase 2019.



# Creating in Crisis

## A Polari Anthology

An anthology from a diverse selection of queer writers providing solace and encouragement during difficult times.

Although set against a backdrop of Covid-19, this is not a lockdown anthology, but more a response to the fact that many people—especially those in minority and marginalised groups—face crises throughout their lives regardless of a global pandemic. People create because of, and in spite of, these challenges.

This collection of short stories, poetry, interview and essay, hopes to provide consolation, solace and encouragement during difficult times; no matter if they are due to a global pandemic or a more permanent factor within our lives.



Featuring 23 pieces of new writing by Alice Liefgreen, Andrew Kaye, Chuck SJ, David Woodhead, Dean Garland, Evie Reckendrees, Francesco Ferranti, Frogb0i, Angela Bruce interviewed by Jo Michael Rezes, Kyron Rizzo, Louis Glazzard, Peter Scalpello, Rachael Llewellyn, Robbie Bailey-Caulfield, Ross Francis, S. Rupsha Mitra, Simon Maddrell, Thomas Ryan Lloyd, Thomas Stewart and Zach Murphy.

Illustrations by Jason Wolfe.

April 2021  
978-1-914237-00-3  
129x198mm Softcover  
£5 | 70 pages

# Black Country Disco

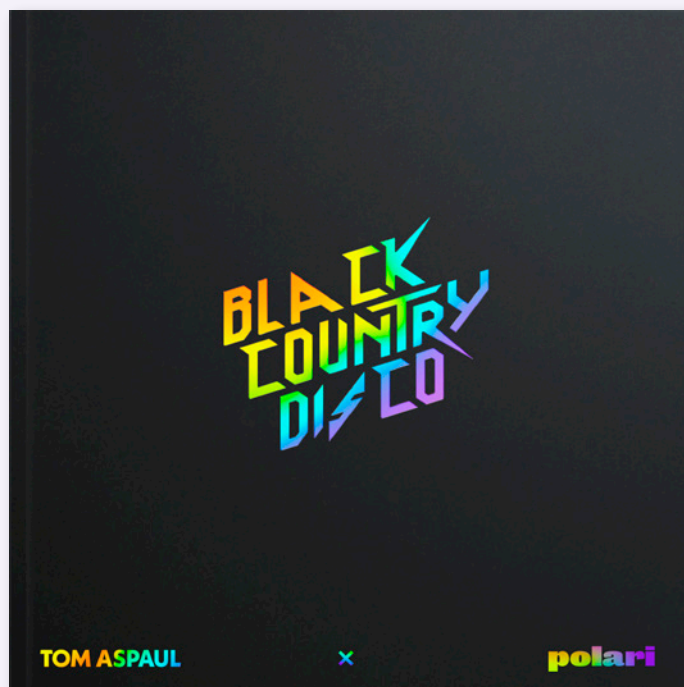
## The Book

Tom Aspaul

The coffee table book to accompany the gay disco album of 2020.

In 2020, Tom Aspaul independently released his debut album, *Black Country Disco*. Having lived and worked in London for twelve years as a songwriter (Kylie Minogue, Becky Hill, Snakehips, Celeste), Aspaul returned home to the West Midlands where the album was conceived and created.

With no label, no publisher and no PR team (and released during the height of the global pandemic!) the record was named by *Gay Times* as 'queer disco album of the year' and included in several end-of-year countdown lists (*Guardian*, *GQ*), supported by a sold-out UK tour and streams of over 4 million.



With foreword by gay icon Princess Julia and featuring interviews with a cast of photographers, producers, filmmakers and artists who helped create the album, *Black Country Disco: The Book* includes never-before-seen photography, an in-depth look into the lyrical content of each track and Tom's musical inspirations and visual references for the album's creative processes.

The book includes a free copy of the double album on CD.

March 2022  
978-1-914237-07-2  
230x230mm | PopSet Ebony cover with rainbow foil  
£35 | 224 pages



TOM ASPAUL hails from Wolverhampton and has worked in the music industry for over a decade, writing for numerous artists as well as himself. He released *Life in Plastic*, the follow-up to *Black Country Disco*, in 2022.

# Harsh Cravings

## A Memoir

Jason Haaf

A diary style memoir influenced by Mary MacLane's *I Await the Devil's Coming* and confessional literature

Written over the course of ninety days, *Harsh Cravings* is a first-person reflection of what it is to navigate a queer life, marriage and memories in New York City. Taking place during the summer and fall months of 2020, it is an unfiltered look into the life of its author and a commentary on the events and people who surround him.

“In the queer tradition of oversharing, *Harsh Cravings* is a raw, resonant, and sexually explicit exploration of self. Jason Haaf’s pandemic journal reverberates with erotic tension while navigating the interior spaces of mid-life’s onslaught of maturity and reflexivity”

— Ryan A White, filmmaker *Raw! Uncut! Video!*



“Haaf’s writing reads like a flashlight illuminating the murky middle-ground of being a queer of a certain age in this most uncertain Age”

— Zach Grear, artist and founder of Boy Division/Queer Theory

“A real slice of life seen through the eyes of a man who allows himself to express his vulnerability and in so doing provides the reader with a resonance, strength and beauty that is as moving as it is difficult to impart”

— Dr Vanessa Sinclair, author of *Scansion in Psychoanalysis and Art: The Cut in Creation*

May 2022  
978-1-914237-04-1  
129x198mm | Softcover  
£10.99 | 198 pages



JASON HAAF is a writer and visual artist living in Brooklyn, New York. He believes in unruly perspectives and strong beginnings on both paper and film. His works have appeared in *Hello Mr.* and *Warm Brothers* magazines, *Rendering Unconscious: Psychoanalytic Perspectives, Politics & Poetry*, *The Trapartisan Review*, *Truant*, *Shower with Affection Volume 2: Group Shower* and *Trigger Warning*. He is the editor of *Bent Book: a queerish anthology* and creator of zines *Love Case* and *Locked Up Boy*.



A stack of white cards with pink geometric patterns, bound with red thread, on a pink background. The cards are stacked diagonally, and the red thread is visible along the edges. The background is a solid pink color.

# POLARI POETRY

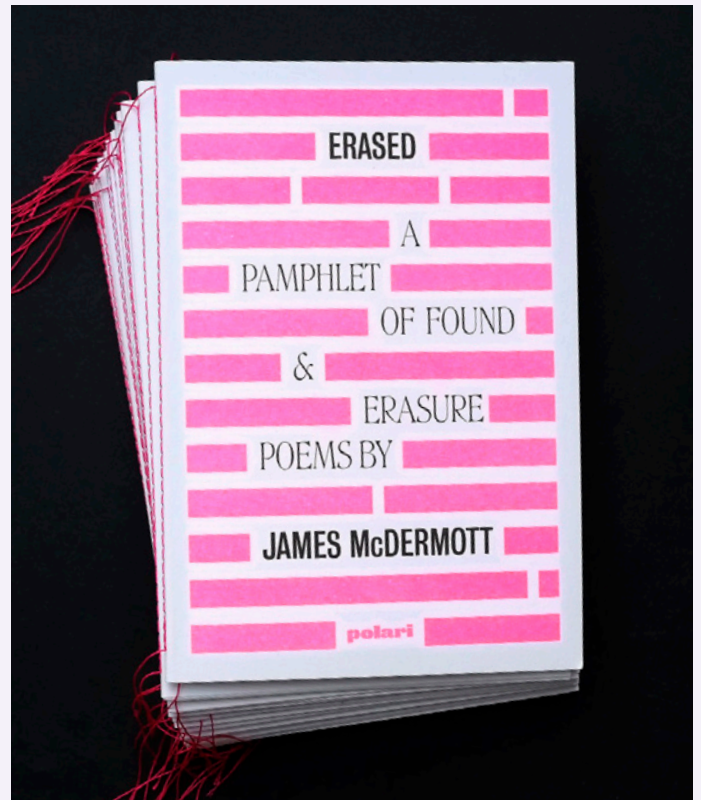
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# Erased

## A pamphlet of found and erasure poems

James McDermott



*Erased* is a limited edition hand-bound poetry pamphlet in which writer James McDermott takes found homophobic newspaper articles, speeches, legislations and biblical passages and makes erasure poems out of them to reveal queer subtext or to turn them into gay-friendly pieces in the hope of reclaiming those texts which tried to erase gay lives.

“A crystallised gem of a collection. Emotive, evocative, and ingenious. Using central conceit that keeps on delivering, James McDermott has uncovered something truly special, an iridescent revision of the canon and our received wisdoms”  
— Rick Dove, poet

“Brilliant and very beautiful. We love it”  
— Gilbert & George, artists

“In a hostile world of microaggressions, and with a history that’s been less than kind to queer people, McDermott changes the narrative of homophobic documents, revisits their language and moulds it into a glittery powersong of wonder and unashamedly queer joy”  
— Serge Ψ Neptune, poet

“Deploys erasure poetry to answer back to decades of censorship and homophobia”  
— Caleb Parkin, author of *This Fruiting Body*

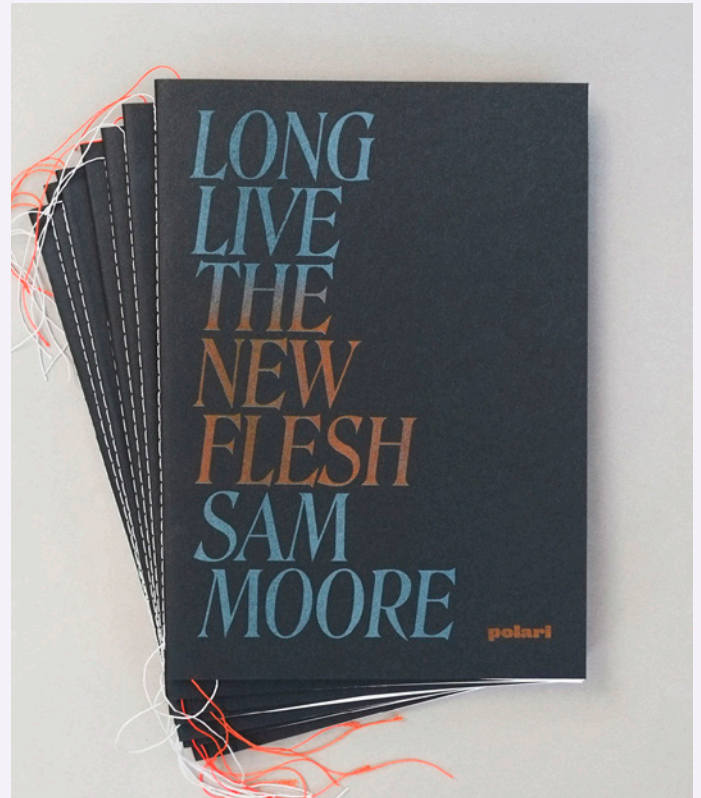
June 2021  
978-1-914237-02-7  
148x210mm Softcover, Singer sewn binding  
£9.99 | 24 pages



JAMES McDERMOTT is a queer writer based in East Anglia. His plays published by Samuel French include *Rubber Ring* (Pleasance Islington; UK Tour) and *Time and Tide* (Park Theatre; Offie nominated for Best New Play 2020). Their poetry collection *Manatomy* is published by Burning Eye. James was shortlisted for Outspoken’s Performance Poetry Prize 2020 and Commended in The Winchester Poetry Prize 2020 judged by Andrew McMillan.

# Long live the new flesh

Sam Moore



*Long live the new flesh* moves through screens, monsters, memories, and bodies, in an act of cultural cruising. Through sources as diverse as *Love Island*, *Sailor Moon*, and *Hellraiser*, these poems explore the endless acts of transformation that do so much to define queer life and identity. Looking at the past as well as the future, this is writing that reaches towards the possibility of liberation in unlikely places, offering a journey towards a new kind of trans future.

“Hewn in the blood splattered celluloid of slasher flicks, Hammer horror and B-movies *Long live the new flesh* is a delicate and funny, searching and profound collection. Moore places their own relationship to writing, transness and the fandom on the butcher’s block with care and precision, tearing the reader a new one in the process” — D Mortimer, author of *Last Night a Beef Jerk Saved My Life*

February 2022  
978-1-914237-05-8  
148x210mm Softcover, Singer sewn binding  
£9.99 | 28 pages

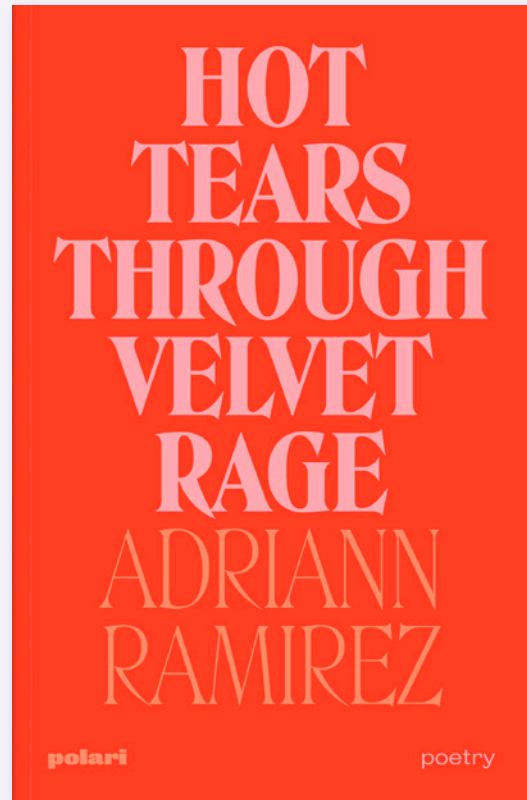


SAM MOORE is a writer, artist, and one of the founding editors of Third Way Press. Their writing on identity and culture has been published by Frieze, the LA Review of Books and Catapult, among others. Their first book, *All my teachers died of AIDS*, was published by Pilot Press in 2020.



# Hot Tears Through Velvet Rage

Adriann Ramirez



*Hot Tears Through Velvet Rage* is the debut collection of poetry and photography by Adriann Ramirez, which presents a collage of queer love, shame, anger and self-acceptance drenched in a pink light, with a foreword written by artist and performer, Paul Kindersley.

“An absolutely exquisite collection of poetry and photos. A rich, sumptuous, tender and captivating world to spend time in”  
— Harry Clayton-Wright

“Conjures those warm, fuzzy and familiar halcyon days of late summer, which is to say, nostalgic and sexy, but shot through with uncompromising queer anger too” — Amelia Abraham

“A sexy, sweaty yet secure nightclub of images and phrases; always full of wonder and trust, a quality so rare in times when we are taught to fear” — Paul Kindersley

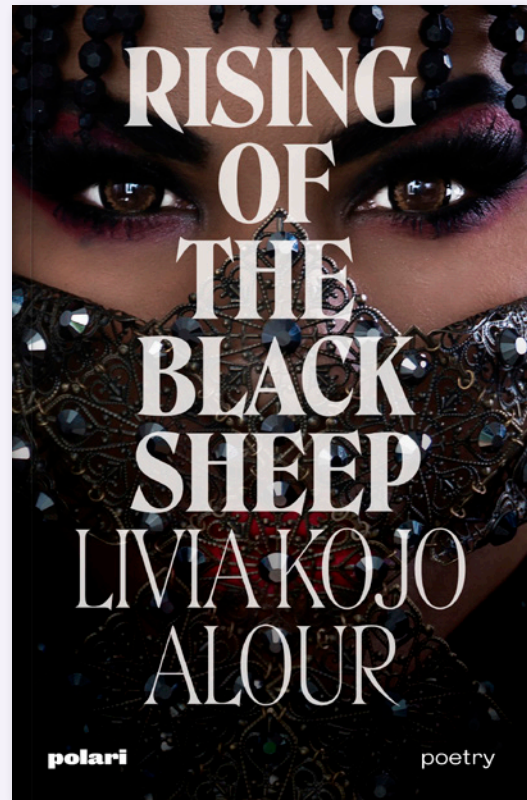
November 2021  
978-1-914237-08-9  
129x198mm Softcover  
£10.99 | 76 pages



ADRIANN RAMIREZ is a London based multi-disciplinary artist who works in dance, choreography, film and poetry. They host podcast Lavender Language, a series of conversations with queer artists. Their work focuses on themes of gender, sexuality, queerness, heritage and their interplay. This is their first book of poetry.

# Rising of the Black Sheep

Livia Kojo Alour



*Rising of the Black Sheep* is a testament of resilience. As a Queer Black woman speaking on personal loss, queer identity, institutional racism but also hope and joy, achievement, activism and a future that is unapologetically Black. In her debut poetry collection Livia Kojo Alour touchingly evokes her childhood memories then takes us onto her journey of self-discovery, overcoming stereotypes and finally moving into her power. This poetry collection is an extension of her solo show *Black Sheep*.

“A fierce poetic and deeply honest voice about what it means to be a Black woman living in the diaspora ... An activist speaking directly on the modern colonial mindset of the UK ... A stunning debut collection” — Guillermo Gómez-Peña

“A heartfelt and visceral collection of self discovery and the power that comes from within” — Amy Ridler

“I cannot currently think of any artist more powerful and unique than Livia Kojo Alour, nor any current poetry collection more resonant and poignant” — Anne Clark

October 2022  
978-1-914237-06-5  
129x198mm Softcover  
£12 | 102 pages

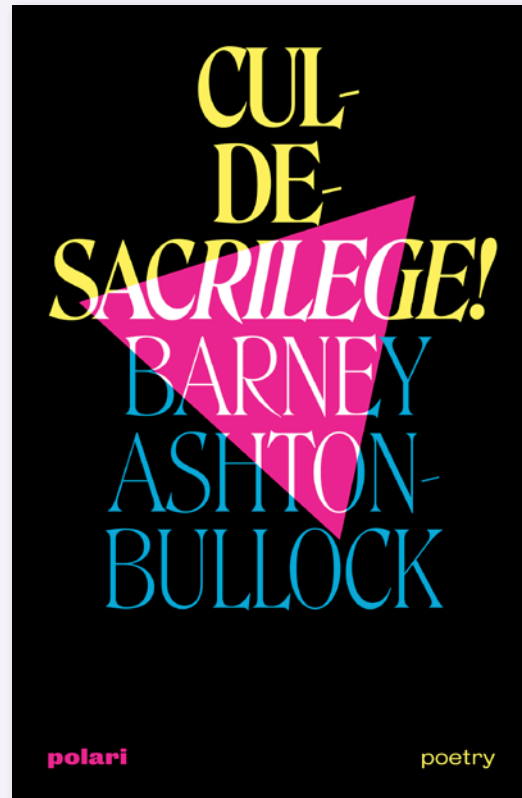


LIVIA KOJO ALOUR was born in Germany and relocated to London in the early 2010s. Livia practises the death-defying skill of sword swallowing, becoming one of only four Black sword swallows known worldwide. She has been voted most influential Burlesque performer in Europe and she is the first sword swallower to be initiated into The Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas. Livia has spoken for TEDx about overcoming fear. This is her first collection.



# Cul-De-Sacrilege!

Barney Ashton-Bullock



*Cul-De-Sacrilege!* displays Ashton-Bullock's signature unrelenting word play and intricate sense of rhythmic force at its most radical and unbridled.

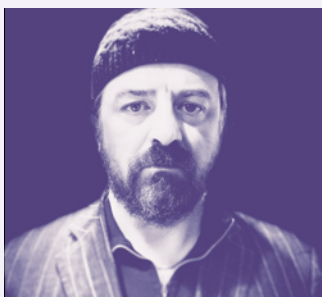
This collection compiles the best of his poems as published in various worldwide poetry journals and blogs over the past few years and combines them with many all new works which form a semi-fictional narrative suite of poems; a sensu-sexual, impressionistic tract of outsider queerdome.

The florid trauma of a rural childhood and the formative cataclysmic loneliness of a queer youth. Departing for the promissory distant promiscuities of the city and the volley of unsatisfactory anonymous encounters and

thwarted, unrequited loves thereof. The menial grind of first jobs, the sexual exploitations wrought of naïvety, sub/dom relationships gone wrong to the misplaced consolatory coping strategy of illicit drug dependency, societal lockdown, nightmares of pending armageddon and its waif and wastrel, reductive aftermath.

A celebration, nonetheless of a cul-de-sac life, an invert Everyman survivor of our disconcerting age.

November 2022  
978-1-914237-09-6  
129x198mm Softcover  
£9.99 | 80 pages



**BARNEY ASHTON-BULLOCK** is the poet in the hybrid music/poetry/pop projects Andy Bell is Torsten and the Downes Braide Association and is widely published in cult poetry journals *Travesties*, *Queerlings*, *Ice Floe*, *Poetry Bus*, the *Avalanches In Poetry* Leonard Cohen tribute anthologies, Pilot Press's *Queer Anthology of Healing* and Broken Sleep's *Aphex Twin* anthology. Recent pamphlets include *Café Kaput!* (Broken Sleep, 2020); *F\*\*kpig Zeitgeist!* and *Bucolicism* (Cherry Red, 2021); and *Geopoliticus, Pupsy!* (Red Ceilings Press, 2022).

# ABOUT POLARI PRESS

Taking our name from the secret slang Polari, we are an independent publishing house which seeks out hidden voices and helps them be heard.

Although Polari was spoken almost exclusively by gay and bisexual men, the nature of clandestine meetings of the mid 1900s, when homosexuality was still criminalised, brought together people from all walks of life who all had an influence on the language.

Cockney, Romany and Italian languages mixed with the colloquialisms of thespians, circus performers, wrestlers, sailors and wider criminal communities to create a slang to express their sexuality secretly and safely.

Inspired by these origins, we publish a diverse range of queer voices, as well as other marginalised groups, to share our perspectives with each other, and help build a collaborative platform for all of us.

[polari.com](http://polari.com)

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# CONTACTS & DISTRIBUTION

## Online

polari.com  
@polaripress

## Publishing

polari.press

## Design

polari.design

## Sales

For trade enquiries about  
stocking our titles, please email  
[trade@polari.press](mailto:trade@polari.press)

All visuals subject to change  
Cover photograph of Harry Clayton-Wright by Ren Brocklehurst

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