

HUNK WILLIAMS' GUIDE TO



**ASSEMBLING AND
UNDERSTANDING THIS BANNER**

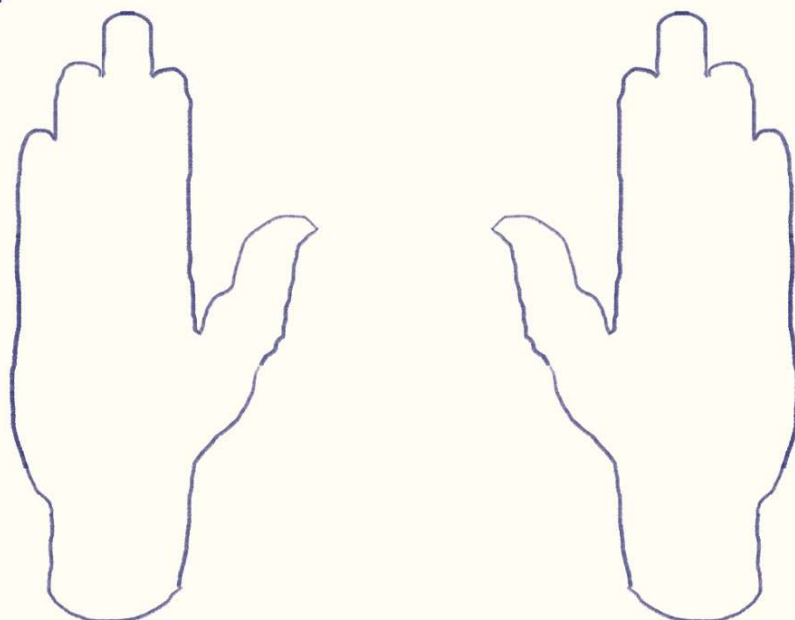
HEY YOU!

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT? SO DO I.

AS A QUEER, DISABLED PERSON, THE WORLD HAS OFTEN BEEN A PERPLEXING PLACE TO EXIST IN. AS SUCH, MY ABSURDIST PHILOSOPHY AND BRICOLAGE TENDENCIES HAVE ALLOWED ME TO REIMAGINE EXISTING CONCEPTS AND MEDIA IN A WAY THAT MAKES SENSE TO MYSELF AND OTHER QUEER PEOPLE.

THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF CREATING THIS SERIES OF BANNERS, I WAS HEAVILY IN CONTACT WITH, AND INFLUENCED BY, MY GRANDPARENTS. MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS A MINER IN THE OAKDALE COLLIERY, AND MY GRANDFATHER HAS BEEN A STAUNCH UNION MAN AND SOCIALIST HIS WHOLE LIFE THROUGH. THE VALUES MY FAMILY HOLD ARE INVALUABLE TO ME, AND THEIR ENDLESS STORIES AND EPHEMERA PROVIDE A STRONG LINK TO WALES' PAST.

OVER THE PAST YEAR, DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, I'VE SPENT MANY HOURS ON THE PHONE WITH MY GRANDPARENTS, LISTENING TO THEIR STORIES AND THINKING ABOUT HOW I CONNECT TO MY HERITAGE, AND THE VALLEYS THEMSELVES. I RECORDED A FEW CHOICE STORIES MY GRANDFATHER, AN AVID STORYTELLER, HAS BEEN TELLING TO ANYONE THAT WILL LISTEN SINCE BEFORE I WAS BORN. PARTS OF THIS RECORDING FORM THE AUDIO FOR THE VIDEO IN WHICH I HOIST MY BANNERS UP, BUT THE FULL RECORDING CAN BE FOUND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR FOLLOWING THE LINK ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE. IN THIS SOUND CLIP, HE RETELLS STORIES OF HIS CHILDHOOD IN WAUNLWYD, HIS TIME IN THE STEELWORKS, AND HIS ATTENDANCE AT ANEURIN BEVAN'S SPEECHES IN THE PALACE THEATRE IN EBBW VALE.



WHEN I WAS DESIGNING THIS BANNER, I WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT PARODIES THE TRADITIONAL UNION LODGE BANNER, BUT HAD A DISTINCTLY QUEER FEELING TO IT.

THE HEART IN HAND IS A PIECE OF SYMBOLISM OFTEN USED BY THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF THE ODD FELLOWS; WHO ARE A FRATERNITY THAT BELIEVE IN THE UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAN. THEIR CALLING IS TO " VISIT THE SICK, RELIEVE THE DISTRESSED, BURY THE DEAD, AND EDUCATE THE ORPHAN". I WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT ECHOED THIS RADICALLY ALTRUISTIC ETHOS, WHILE ALSO CELEBRATING THE SUBCULTURE OF QUEERS IN WALES THAT ARE PERHAPS LESS ASSIMILATED, MORE STRANGE - SO THE HEART IN HAND FOR ME SYMBOLISES THE LOVE AND UNITY THAT EXISTS BETWEEN MORE 'FRINGE' QUEERS.

THE 'COMEDY' AND 'TRAGEDY' THAT FRAME THE BANNER AT EACH SIDE REPRESENT THE ABSURDIST RESPONSE TO THE CONSTANT TURMOIL OF LIFE, WHICH I THINK WE'VE ALL EXPERIENCED TO SOME DEGREE OR ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY DURING THE LAST YEAR.

THIS BANNER WAS MADE USING STIFFENED FELT, AND CUT PATTERNS DRAWN BY ME. I LOVE MAKING WORK THAT HAS A TACILE QUALITY; EPHEMERAL OBJECTS YOU CAN RUN YOUR HANDS OVER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT FOLKS ARE STILL ABLE TO ENGAGE WITH MY WORK IN THIS WAY DESPITE THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE CURRENT PANDEMIC, SO I PUT TOGETHER THIS DIY GUIDE FOR RE-CREATING IT AT HOME! INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FOUND LATER IN THIS DOCUMENT.

MY GRANDFATHER'S FULL MONOLOGUE



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VISUAL GUIDE FOR BANNER ASSEMBLY



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16MM SCRATCH FILM



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CULMINATIVE SHORT FILM



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THE TOP BANNER IS A LOVE LETTER TO WALES. ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BANNER ARE WORDS FROM THE POEM 'THE BELLS OF RHYMNEY', BY WELSH POET, TEACHER, AND MINER; IDRIS DAVIES. THIS POEM WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN DAVIES' 1938 BOOK 'GWALIA DESERTA', MEANING 'WASTELAND OF WALES'. 'THE BELLS OF RHYMNEY' WAS LATER POPULARISED BY MUSICIANS SUCH AS PETE SEEGER AND THE BYRDS. THE MIDDLE CIRCLE DEPICTS A MINERS' LAMP, MODELLED OFF MY GREAT-GRANDFATHERS' LAMP FROM OAKDALE COLLIERY, WHICH MY GRANDMOTHER STILL KEEPS IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. THE PLATE ON THE LAMP READS 'YES', A SUBTLE NOD TO THE INDEPENDENCE THAT WALES HAS SO LONG DESERVED. ABOVE AND BELOW THE MINERS LAMP ARE SCROLLS THAT READ "LORD BUILD ME A CABIN IN THE CORNER OF GLORY LAND", WHICH ARE LYRICS BY COUNTRY LEGEND HANK WILLIAMS.

THE BOTTOM BANNER IS A LOVE LETTER TO UNIONS AND THE POWER OF SOLIDARITY. MY GRANDFATHER IS A UNION MAN, AND BECAUSE WE MODEL OURSELVES AFTER GREATNESS, SO AM I. THE MIDDLE PANEL READS "THE ACID TEST OF POWER IS UNITY". THIS PHRASE WAS TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM AN OLD UNION BANNER I SAW DURING MY RESEARCH, BUT IT SPOKE TO ME BECAUSE IT HOLDS A DOUBLE ENTENDRE. KEN KESEY AND THE MERRY PRANKSTERS, KEY FIGURES OF 1960S COUNTERCULTURE, TOURED THE USA ON A PSYCHEDELIC BUS WITH THE GRATEFUL DEAD AND HELD 'ACID TEST' EVENTS, AT WHICH THE ATTENDEES WOULD BE GIVEN KOOL-AID WITH LSD MIXED IN WHILE THE GRATEFUL DEAD PLAYED A SET. IN THE 4 CIRCLES AROUND THE MIDDLE PANEL ARE THE RECURRING HEART IN HAND MOTIFS, AND SOME PASTEL COLOURED COWS. THE COWS ARE (HA HA) IN THE COLOURS OF THE TRANS FLAG, AND REPRESENT THE LOAD-BARING, HARD-WORKING NATURE OF LABOURERS. AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BANNER SIT THE TRADITIONAL CLASPED HANDS, SIGNIFYING THE SEALING OF A SACRED BOND, AND DEPICTING THAT UNITY IS STRENGTH.

TRADITIONALLY, IN UNION BANNERS, RED REPRESENTS LABOUR AND COURAGE, GREEN REPRESENTS LONG CHERISHED HOPES AND A NEW LIFE, WHITE REPRESENTS PURITY AND HONOUR, AND GOLD REPRESENTS AMBITION. AT THE RISK OF EXPLAINING TOO MUCH, I WOULD LIKE OTHERS TO BE ABLE TO FIND MEANING IN THESE EPHEMERAL OBJECTS AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING SHORT FILM.



DURING THE COURSE OF THIS PROJECT, I POSTED THE FULL RECORDING OF MY GRANDFATHER'S MONOLOGUE ON A LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND REMEMBERING EBBW VALE HISTORY (EBBW VALE PAST AND PRESENT). I HADN'T INTENDED TO DO THIS, AND ONLY POSTED ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT SOME MAY BE INTERESTED. THE RESPONSE I RECEIVED WAS PHENOMENAL - OVER 200 PEOPLE LISTENED TO THE RECORDING, AND COMMENTS FLOODED IN, REMINISCING AND EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR A MAN WHO HAS ENRICHED THE LIVES OF MANY. THE POST WAS EVEN ABLE TO RE-CONNECT MY GRANDFATHER TO HIS COUSIN, WITH WHOM HE HAD LOST CONTACT SEVERAL YEARS AGO. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT, I COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED THE LENGTHS TO WHICH IT WOULD REACH. BEING ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO MY GRANDFATHER BY RECONNECTING HIM WITH OLD FRIENDS, DURING A TIME WHERE MANY ARE ISOLATED, HAS BEEN SO ENRICHING.

I GOT TO THINKING AFTER THE AVALANCHE OF APPRECIATION FOR MY GRANDFATHER. I THOUGHT, PERHAPS I UNDERSTAND WHAT HANK III (GRANDSON OF COUNTRY LEGEND HANK WILLIAMS) HAD MEANT WHEN HE HAD SAID THAT HIS "GRANDFATHER'S LEGACY WAS DEAD IN THE BONGWATER". WHAT HIS GRANDPAPPY HAD WORKED SO TIRELESSLY FOR HAS BEEN ECLIPSED BY MODERNITY AND THE GIANT-SCREEN DISNEY INFOTAINMENT AGE, AND ALL THE TOIL THEY EDURED IN BACK-BREAKING PHYSICAL LABOUR FOR THEIR FAMILIES IS LOST TO THE PAST. ALL OUR GENERATION IS LEFT WITH IS MALAISE BECAUSE CONTEMPORARY LIFE, WHILE SIGNIFICANTLY EASIER, IS SO GRATUITOUS AND TIK-TOK AND BRAND LOYALTIES AND CLUBCARDS AND DELIVEROO AND FACETIME. NOTHING QUITE SATISFIES OR EXCITES. THERE IS NO REWARD.

HOWEVER, HOLDING SPACE FOR HISTORY CAN FILL THAT VOID AND CONNECT US TO OUR HERITAGE IN A WAY THAT MAKES SENSE TO *US*. ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE DOESN'T FIT THE EXACT QUOTA FOR WHAT PEOPLE EXPECT DESCENDANTS OF RESPECTABLE FOLKS TO BE. HOLDING SPACE FOR YOURSELF IN THE CONTEXT OF HISTORY, AND INDEED YOUR OWN HISTORY, IS AN IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL ACT. IT ALLOWS US TO CONNECT TO AND HONOUR OUR ANCESTORS AND HERITAGE, WHILE REMAINING AUNTHENTIC TO OUR CURRENT LIVES AND IDENTITIES. IT CAN AFFIRM OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD, AND HELP OVERCOME BOUNDARIES - GENERATIONAL GAPS, LANGUAGE BARRIERS, GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCES AND PREJUDICES. AND *THAT* IS WHY HISTORY, CULTURE AND BRICOLAGE ARE SO IMPORTANT; BECAUSE THEY HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT CAME BEFORE RIGHT NOW. AND AS PETE SEEGER SAID; "WE CAN BRING TO BIRTH A NEW WORLD FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD, FOR THE UNION MAKES US STRONG"



HOW TO

EACH PATTERN CUTOUT PIECE HAS ITS OWN INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED ONTO IT TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION! BUT BELOW ARE SOME TIPS TO MAKE THE JOB EVEN MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD.

BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN TRACING THE PATTERNS ONTO YOUR FELT, IT NEEDS TO BE STIFFENED, MAKING IT EASIER TO CUT & HANDLE IN GENERAL. FABRIC STIFFENER CAN BE DILUTED WITH A LITTLE BIT OF WATER TO MAKE IT GO FURTHER - EACH BOTTLE SHOULD COVER ABOUT 2-3 METRE SHEETS OF FELT. MIX UP THE STIFFENER IN A BOWL WITH SOME WATER, AND PAINT THE MIXTURE ONTO THE FELT USING A FLAT BRUSH. DRENCH THE FELT IN A HEALTHY LAYER OF STIFFENER BEFORE LEAVING IT TO DRY SOMEWHERE FLAT OR HUNG UP STRAIGHT! IT'S ADVISABLE TO TRACE THE PATTERNS ONTO THE 'CRUNCHY' SIDE OF YOUR FELT ONCE DRIED!

TO SAVE PAPER, ONLY 1 STENCIL FOR EACH LETTER IS PROVIDED, USE THE LETTERS INTERCHANGABLY TO SPELL OUT 'COMEDY', 'TRAGEDY' AND 'WELSH UNION'. DO THE SAME FOR THE SMALLEST SET OF LETTERS THAT SPELL OUT 'TAKE IT SLEAZY'. REMEMBER TO TRACE THE LETTERS BACKWARDS SO THEY'LL BE THE RIGHT WAY AROUND WHEN CUT OUT & GLUED ON!

THE HAND CENTREPIECE NEEDS TO BE ASSEMBLED, SO CUT OUT PART 1 AND PART 2, LINE THE EDGES UP AND CAREFULLY TAPE THEM TOGETHER TO FORM THE WHOLE SHAPE.

THE RECTANGULAR PANEL MARKED '84CM' IS A WIDTH GUIDE FOR THE SIDE STRIPS. TRACE THIS ONCE, THEN MOVE THE PAPER PATTERN ALONG THE FABRIC AND LINE IT UP WITH YOUR TRACE. REPEAT UNTIL YOU HAVE 3 RECTANGULAR TRACES THAT FORM A LONG THIN RECTANGLE THAT SHOULD MEASURE 84CM ON ITS LONGEST SIDE.

TO ATTACH LOOPS SO YOUR BANNER CAN BE MOUNTED ON A POLE, YOU SHOULD LEAVE A 2 INCH THICK STRIP ALONG THE TOP OF YOUR BACKING PANEL. CUT 4 FELT STRIPS USING THE 'HANGING STRIP' TEMPLATE, AND FOLD EACH IN HALF. MARK OUT THE DOTTED LINE ON THE BACK OF YOUR FELT STRIPS, AND LINE THEM UP ALONG THE BACK EDGE OF YOUR BACKING PANEL. FOLD THE STRIP OVER THE EDGE OF THE BACKING PANEL, AND STITCH, STAPLE, OR GLUE THE STRIP IN PLACE, SANDWICHING YOUR BACKING PANEL BETWEEN BOTH SIDES OF THE FOLDED STRIP. REPEAT WITH THE 3 OTHER STRIPS, EVENLY ACROSS THE TOP. WHEN ALL HANGING STRIPS ARE ATTACHED, GLUE ALONG THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE BACK, AND FOLD IT OVER, HIDING THE SHORTEST EDGE OF THE STRIPS UNDERNEATH. A POLE OR BAMBOO STICK CAN NOW BE USED TO SUPPORT YOUR BANNER.

YOU'RE ALL SET!

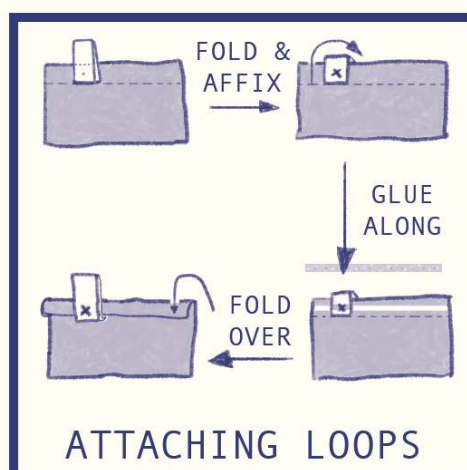
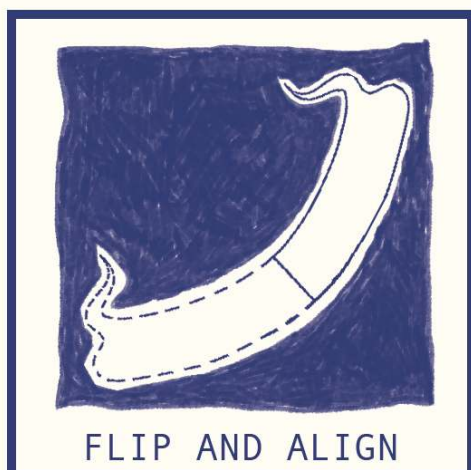
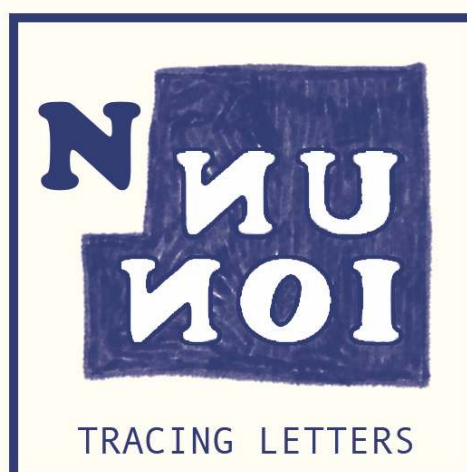
YOU WILL NEED

A PIECE OF FABRIC (120 CM X 84CM) FOR THE BACKING PANEL.
VARIOUS COLOURED FELTS (AVAILABLE FOR £2.99 PER METRE
AT UNIQUEKNITANDSEW.CO.UK)

A SHARP PAIR OF SCISSORS, MAYBE A SCALPEL FOR CUTTING PAPER.
A PEN THAT CAN DRAW ONTO FABRIC, BUT WON'T BLEED
THROUGH (A BIRO OR ROLLERBALL, OR A THIN POSCA PEN).

2 BOTTLES OF PVA OR FABRIC GLUE (AVAILABLE FOR £1.54
AT SEWESSENTIAL.CO.UK)

FABRIC STIFFENER (AVAILABLE FOR £3.60 PER 250ML ALSO FROM
SEWESSENTIAL.CO.UK) AND A BRUSH TO APPLY.



Dai's Nylon
Cord. Aquited
from Oakdale
Colliery
always brings
Good Luck

☺
May be useful
Very strong.

