



life lessons with...

THE CULT KING OF TRASH CINEMA, JOHN WATERS.

INTERVIEW JO WALKER

LOVE YOUR WORK

I never had to get a real job. I mean a job that you hate, where you wake up every morning and think, Oh my god, I have to go to work. I was lucky enough when I was young to know what I wanted to be. I should have quit school when I was 16, because I would have made two more movies. You go to school to figure out what it is you want to be, but I knew already and they didn't want me to be that. Today it's much better. You could go to school today and make a snuff movie and get an A. It wasn't like that when I was growing up.

EMBRACE YOUR FAULTS

Anything that you're trying to hide or feel bad about yourself for, you can't really change. You can grow to accept it or grow to not accept behaviour where you punish yourself for it. And if you do punish yourself for it, make sure you choose that punishment and get some kind of masochistic pleasure out of it.

AGE SEMI-GRACEFULLY

I don't know that I'm ageing gracefully. I think young people should start to mock our fear of ageing; they should be faux-old. That should be the next teen fad – where they draw bags under their eyes and men shave receding hairlines. I think fake-old could be

the greatest new fad for young people. In terms of growing old gracefully, there's nothing you can do for it but stay in shape and look your best and continue to go out. And hire youth spies, that's really important: people who want to go to a bar and hear rap music at 4am. I can't do that but I want to know about it, so they come and fill me in and I give them free drinks.

BE SUCCESSFULLY SINGLE

I am alone and not lonely. Even when I've been in love in my life, I never wanted to live with that person. I think living with someone is a terrible idea, because all control freaks are looking for the person they can't control, and when they find them it's hell! I know that. I'm not necessarily looking for a relationship with somebody. My friends bring me intimacy. I have crazy boyfriends, too. I really like them, I'm fond of them, but I don't want to spend my life with them.

ASK FOR HELP

You have to ask for things! A 'no' is free. Don't not ask because you fear rejection – everybody fears rejection. Anything you wanna do, you ask 10 people and maybe one of them says yes. But to ask somebody permission to do what you want to do and for them to help you do that, if they say no, it didn't cost you anything. Don't be afraid to get a no, and move on to the next closet yes.

BE AN OUTLAW

I did have some problems because I was gay, but that made me stronger, that made me an outlaw. Now everybody in the gay world wants to imitate the people who used to beat us up and get married and have children. I'm totally for that – everybody has the right to do that. But I don't wanna do that. Sometimes I think I'd go back and tell my younger self: be glad it was illegal then because it was so much fun to be an outlaw. Now there are too many gay people! We don't want you! I joke about that – I think I'm gaily incorrect, too. I don't think gay people should always have to be good now. I think some of us should be gay villains. I'm for the rights of lesbian mothers to be bad mothers. Just like heterosexuals have the right to be. ❀