

## **Pretty Curious with Jonathan Van Ness & Pattie Gonia**

JVN: Hi, curious people. I'm Jonathan Van Ness and welcome back to another episode of Pretty Curious. Now we are doing again, a little hybrid on Pretty Curious. Yes, we're talking about beauty. But today's guest is someone who I absolutely love, Pattie Gonia. They are a fierce, uh renowned drag artist, activist, a gorgeous ginger. Uh, someone who I've, who I've known for years. I met them back in 2019. I love their advocacy. I love their work. I love their drag. Uh, we also had the unfortunate experience of being featured in a Trump campaign ad together, and so I thought, honey, let's have Pattie on, let's talk about the election. Let's talk about our makeup, let's talk about queer stuff. Um, and let's have a good old kiki right before we go into this election. And really, we're asking how do we still look so gorgeous even in a Trump ad. But before we get there, let's talk about a beauty experience. It was Halloween. Uh, it's the one time of year when we are allowed to dress up like total sluts and no one can come at us for it. Um, we did Bewitched. I was Elizabeth Montgomery. Marky was uh a Thora the mom because Mark my husband, he always likes to explore his transness during uh Halloween. Um, he really does. So, so that's what we did. And uh I gotta say my wig was wiggling and all of, you know, so much of our work. I'm pretty curious, really all culminated in that moment. Um, and it was gorgeous. Although I will say sidebar you guys, I'm not wanting to get into fillers, but I am really wanting to do some like restorative shit to my face. I want like a peptide facial or something. I want like one of those like undetectable procedures that's like not like full surgery. I just don't know which one to do so any ideas let slide into our DM's. But let's get to our conversation with Pattie Gonia. And first, the bio Pattie Gonia is a critically acclaimed drag queen, environmentalist and musician. To date Pattie's community is more than 1 million people. Strong, Patti is also the co-founder of the Outdoorist Oath, a nonprofit that gets BIPOC LGBTQIA plus and Fems into the outdoors through community and education. Recently, Patty founded the Queer Outdoor and Environmental Job Board, a free tool queer individuals can use to get hired and therefore diversify the fields. Together with her community. They've collectively fund raised over \$2.5 million dollars for LGBTQIA plus BIPOC and environmental nonprofits, completed thousands of miles of hiking and backpacking and raised awareness about the ongoing environmental crisis through their film projects, like Won't Give Up, Birds Tell Us, and Everything to Lose. In 2024 Patty was named an out magazines, out 100 people. Pattie's drag itself as a personal journey of self identity, sustainability, and queering traditional masculine outdoor narratives to explore the natural world. Pattie, Thank you for taking your time to come up. Pretty Curious, how are you?

PATTIE GONIA: I am so good and so gay and I'm so happy to be here!

JVN: Patty. I feel like this is like, I think one thing that our listeners know about me is is that I love a hybrid. And today's episode is really kind of a little bit, it's Getting Curious, meets, Pretty Curious. Yes, we are going to be talking beauty, but also I have a lot of curiosity that needs to be happening on this. And it's, it's a busy election season, honey. And so we're just, we're doing hybrids today and just thank you for spending your Monday with us.

PATTIE GONIA: Oh, my gosh. I am so excited to be with you and I love hybrids too. So let's do it.

JVN: So we were minding our own business in 2018. And then we went figure skating together at Chelsea Piers.

PATTIE GONIA: We did.

JVN: I remember it like yesterday, I was going through a breakup. You were doing scratch spins. We had so much fun. We like skated all over and it was just, and I will say that at the time, I was like, just full tilt in my figure skating journey and watching you just like put on skates and just like bust out some stunning because you have a because so that leads us into your origin story because you were a baby and where were you a baby growing up?

PATTIE GONIA: I was a baby in Nebraska. But yeah, I grew up figure skating. So it was in my blood and when there's, you know, you're in the Midwest, there's nothing to do but figure skate or be sad or do show choir. So I did all three of those things.

JVN: Show choir. Our show choir in my high school was like um sequence royal blue and like black pants slash white. What were your colors?

PATTIE GONIA: We were, we were green. We were always green because we were the Silver Hawks. You know, we were being very very that. But it was uh I always, I remember like in show choir being like, I love this so much and I wish I could wear the girls dresses and now I get to wear the girls dresses.

JVN: Thank God. That was how I was in cheer. I was like, why do I have to have this fucking hideous megaphone? I want my pom poms. Like where are my fucking pom poms? This sucks so –

PATTIE GONIA: Exactly. Sometimes I'm amazed at how your life is a set up for your life if you just let it.

JVN: So true. That's kind of prophetic and that's almost like, how do we continue from there? But so, so, but you come from Nebraska, grew up in the Midwest, then you moved to, where have you spent your adult life?

PATTIE GONIA: I moved to Oregon.

JVN: You did, right?

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah. So, I, I spent a long time in Nebraska. So I grew up in Nebraska loved it. I love the Midwest. I think it's a very underrated place. And, I mean, you know, the first spaces I ever remember being like queer and myself were outside. So again, your life being a set up for your life, I should have seen it coming. But yeah, I grew up closeted in the Midwest and I lived a lot of my adult life in Nebraska too and it wasn't until Patty was really born that I think I had my real coming out of not just like sexuality and who I was, but also just gender and expression and kind of, I think really putting out there a lot of pieces that I had kept hidden because, you know, it's the classic story of when you come out almost going further back in the closet. Like I, I really feel like, you know, I became the, the good and passable uh straight passing queer person when I came out of the closet. So, Pattie for me was a real healing journey still is. Um, and yeah, I, I'm finding myself even queer in the outdoors nowadays, you have Pattie.

JVN: When did Patty get born?

PATTIE GONIA: So I was 26 and I was a photographer at this time. And there was this photography conference that I used to teach at and speak at every year. And there was this giant dance party at the end of, of the conference. And the invitation was to go to the dance

party as whoever you wanna be. And I'd never done drag again. I was very straight passing me like just wearing the most boring clothes in the world. And I was like, you know what I wanna do it. And so I went to this photography conference, I went to this dance party and I went and dragged for the first time. And I remember literally going to West Hollywood to this like drag store and getting this pair of high heel boots and buying them and feeling like so wrong for even being in the store like that's where we were at. And I went out that night, not as Pattie but as Ginger Snap and it was very beautiful. Yeah. Redhead photography. Here we are drag origin stories.

JVN: Yes.

PATTIE GONIA: But I went out that night as Ginger Snap and I just felt so free. And so me and I remember looking in the mirror and seeing so much of the femininity and the queerness that I had left out of my life looking right back at me in the mirror and the drag was busted, but it didn't matter. It was just so freeing it was so beautiful and I had so much fun that night. What I wasn't thinking about was that it was a photography conference and there were hundreds of photographers taking photos that night. And so, you know, the week later when I was back home in Nebraska, it was just like deafening silence because everyone had seen these photos of me in drag and no one had ever seen me to be anything like that. And then there were rumors that I was trans and that I was, you know, finally, you know, the devil had finally got me and all this stuff. You've heard it before. But it was just the deafening silence from so many people in my life, like family, chosen family, people I thought would like be in my wedding someday. Um, and that silence hurt so much. And so it was really painful and so this pair of high heel boots that like I felt so good in that night, I put him back in my closet and I was like, fuck that. Like I don't need to touch that. It's too painful. It's too much. I don't want to do it. And then like four months later, after the longest summer of my life, having literally no friends. A few of the only friends I had left in my life went on a backpacking trip with them. And I remember looking at my closet and seeing my backpacking backpack in those high heel boots and I just thought, what if? And I decided to pack these boots in my backpack and for the 1st 20 miles and like thousands of feet of uphill, I was like, this is the dumbest decision in the world. But then when we reached the summit on this backpacking trip, I put on that pair of high heel boots and like strutted for the first time as Pattie Gonia. And, you know, we took some photos and we took some videos with my friends and it was really fun, but it was also just so freeing to be out of nature and to be myself and to tap into that inner child in a way, it's very healing and you know, came back home, made a little video out of it, said it to a Fergie song like it was just so silly and posted this video online, yes.

JVN: But I think it's correct me if I'm wrong. Isn't that how I –

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, yeah.

JVN: Because I was just thinking, I think because I remember seeing you like on a mountain in these boots –

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah yeah yeah.

JVN: And I feel like the story. So that must have been like that post must have been like how I found you in that time, right?

PATTIE GONIA: Mhm, it is. It was my gay Bat Call. And now here we are. Can we believe –

JVN: But that is right, right?

PATTIE GONIA: I hear it's bringing people together? It is. It is. It is. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I remember like you first reaching out when I posted that video but, but yeah, I like I posted this video online. And like, we're used to like viral stories. But like the thing that was crazy to me was the hundreds of messages from people like you people, queer people that were park rangers in national parks being like, hey, we've never had a pride in our national park. And like when you come, help us throw pride. And now, like, you know, five years later, we're throwing pride in Yosemite National Park, not for guests to come to the park, but for the park employees in the thousands and like queers are taking over the outdoors and queers have always been in the outdoors, but now we just have visibility. So it's been really surreal and really beautiful to see how many queer people are in the outdoors because I think the traditional narrative is for queer people to run to cities for acceptance when really so many queer people are running the opposite way into the forest and I think are really finding each other there. So for me, that's why I love Oregon. That's why I love the outdoors. And I think it's a really healing place for people. And honestly, I think it's cities can be pretty damn toxic for queer people, uh especially transgender, non conforming people. And I really love that nature is there for us. Um doesn't mean it's always a safe place but it is there for us. So yeah, that's like, that's how Pattie was born. But yeah, six years later, if you would have told me that I'd be here now with like more than a million like queer people, outdoor enthusiasts. I would have told you you're bash shit crazy. But here we are, it's crazy.

JVN: Ok so, and, and just thank you so much for, for continually doing your work sidebar last week, two weeks ago, minding my own business. I wake up the creator of Queer Eye sends me this video and it's a Trump ad and I'm like, I got like five seconds through it. And then I was like, why is he sending me this? I don't get it. And I was like, I don't want to finish this video. So I, I just, you know, I watch like 10 seconds. I'm like, I don't get it. Then I look on Instagram and I, I don't, I try not to be in the comments too much. We talk about that a lot on the pod. But in the comments, I'm like, seeing like you're in the Trump ad, you and Pattie, you're in a Trump ad. And I'm like, because my best friend's name is also Patty. So I was like, well, I knew I didn't think it was her. Why would that, that didn't make sense? So then I was like, so then the light bulb went off of the video. So then I was like, oh my God, that must have been why David sent that to me.

PATTIE GONIA: Mhm.

JVN: So then I went and looked at the video and then I see, I watched the whole thing and then I see you and I, and I will say selfishly the first thought that I had after the shock of seeing you and I in a Trump campaign or like a paid for by mega supremacists uh campaign. My first thought, I'll say it. This is Pretty Curious. Maybe I'm other like, once the racism transphobia, the, like all the other stuff went away. We looked great.

PATTIE GONIA: We looked hot, we looked very hot.

JVN: You know, I did get a national ad this year. It just wasn't the one I wanted, but that's ok. What were your feelings?

PATTIE GONIA: Here we are here, we are. And they, and they've spent millions on that ad. You know, I think it's like they're literally putting millions of dollars behind our beauty. So there they are. But yeah, I mean, honestly, you know how I found out about the ad was that I had like, lots of friends from back home, like, message me the ad and be like, this is on like

prime time football. I don't know what you call the channels because I don't follow football things. But like Monday night football, they were like, this is, this is on four times on Monday night football and you know how I felt about it was first of all, like, I'm just a firm believer that if you were doing anything right in this world nowadays, people are gonna try to tear you down. So I'm like, well good on us. We're clearly doing things, right? Two like crazy that they use two incredibly successful, like incredibly like active community members that are trying to do good in this world, in this ad. So that, that speaks volumes as well. And three, I'm like, the ad didn't even make sense. I'm like, they're trying to use as many words and terms and throw it into one giant blender of a hateful thing. I'm like, you don't even, is that the best you've got? Like, it doesn't even make sense. So I think to me, it, it feels like one iconic two, they're dumb three, they're weird. Like Tim Waltz, my fellow Nebraskan said it best. They're weird. It's just, it's so weird and you know, the thing is like, I know it's not about you. It's not about me. Those are the two little clips they could find with two gender, non conforming people that they decided to, to use in the ad. So it's not about us but also like, it's just is, it just, it makes no sense to me yet. It makes all the sense in the world to me because I think that they really know that like hate is a very powerful motivator. Um, I try to not opt into that. Um, I think it's really dangerous.

JVN: And I just think until our straight people start taking this on as an issue of them of their own –

PATTIE GONIA: Mhm.

JVN: because we see that these trans issues are starting to affect straight people. It's affecting young women that are trying to play sports. We saw it happen at the Olympics twice. You know, this is affecting not only straight people, I didn't mean to say cisgender people, not straight people get into, I love it when I fuck up the terms of our own community. But it's also affecting cisgender people. And I think until such gender people see this misinformation, disinformation against the trans community as a threat to themselves, we're going to keep having this over and over again.

PATTIE GONIA: To me, it's not about you and it's not about me. It's about the hate that the trans community is getting and just the hate that the queer community gets and how much it's just used as a, as a complete like punching bag and in a way to win votes. And I think, you know what I'd also say too about like the whole ordeal is, you know, we lawyered up, we got a lawyer and the most direct thing we could do the lawsuit we could actually do to win is basically like to sue them for saying that I am an illegal immigrant and that I'm trans, two things which I don't think are bad and two things of which I am not. Um, because you know, the, the first ad that they used me in which is the one before you and me, they were saying that I was an illegal immigrant as well. So, you know, we're really confused out there. Getting Curious, Getting Confused is, is the, is the MAGA podcast that needs to happen.

JVN: I mean, and now like the thing is like the whole, like Jesus says, Lord thing like there is just like, it is just, yeah, so tiring. But I do think that that's the, that's the tactic is like, don't stop talking, like, just say anything and don't stop –

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, yeah.

JVN: And that because it's like a fire hose of bullshit. And it's like if you have any self-respect or like your own agenda and like things that you want to focus on, it's like you won't spend

the rest of your time, like refuting everything they say because like, it just never ends. But that's how it's kind of effective.

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, it's, it's taken me into a really unique place. And again, I think a lot of people are there with me. It's just, it's really hard nowadays to know what to do because I don't just want to be screaming to like the liberal masses and just because that gets nothing done, that doesn't actually like, make change happen. But also I feel like, you know, the Republican Party has taken my career and my identity and made it evil and you know, I'm not the one sexually assaulting kids. It was the priest down the street from me growing up. So I don't know, I think the call is coming from inside the house.

JVN: So if you're like, not really an outdoor, an outdoor girly and like, let's say you're like more in like Chicago, LA, New York and you're like, Pattie, I'm not flying to go to a group gay hike. Like, I'm not, not doing it or maybe there's just like a lady in fucking St. Lewis or something. She's not even here. Where can someone dip their toe into a little tiny bit of nature? Like a beginning nature girl? Where could she go if she lived in a city?

PATTIE GONIA: Yes, I love this question because nature is all around us. We just have to look for it. I mean, and also we have to redefine what like going outdoors or being outdoorsy looks like to me, like, I think we often think of it as like that big National Park trip or like that group hike with me when really going outdoors, being outdoors is like painting your fingernails in your own little backyard or going and enjoying that neighborhood park or taking a few of your queer friends to that park and just eating some food outside. Guess what? Banana bread and cheese taste better outside. Facts are facts.

JVN: Going on your patio, smoking a joint.

PATTIE GONIA: Literally. Literally, literally.

You get your little Charlotte like spider that you're obsessed with because I have all these like yellow we spiders and I always make friends with one every year and I watch her do her little egg sac. But my girl last year's eggs didn't hatch. And I'm really sad about it.

PATTIE GONIA: Yes. And that is going to go ahead and be a really beautiful metaphorical journey that nature has taught you. And that's amazing. Like I love that shit. It's, yeah, I think that we need to, we need to redefine what outdoorsy and nature is. And I think also it can look like five minutes here, 10 minutes there. It does not have to look like what outdoor brands try to sell you. That nature is because guess what? They just make more money if they can sell you this out of reach unattainable thing. Capitalism be capitalising, baby girl. Like, and like it is, it's totally made up so that you spend more money on gear you don't need to do things that you're probably like, not really going to do so to me –

JVN: Yeah, because I don't want to go for too long. Like, that's where you lose me. Like I, because like, when I lived in Phoenix, like there was like, have you ever been to Phoenix?

PATTIE GONIA: I have been to that hellhole. I'm sorry.

JVN: Do you know about like Squaw Peak and like Camelback? Like people like you like, go, I do like, I like that because it was like, you kind of, it's like, really hard to get lost because like, there's, it's kind of like, you know, pretty direct and it's like an hour and, and once I get, and like, once I know that I've been going uphill for half an hour –

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh.

JVN: I'm like, oh, it's probably gonna take me, like, almost this amount of time to get down. I don't care if I'm at the top or not –

PATTIE GONIA: Yes, yes, yes.

JVN: I'm going home. I just, like, more than an hour I'm like, because I don't want to get lost. I just think about those Dateline stories. I don't need to tell the story on the pod again. Like you guys, I already know what, you know, I already know that you all know what I'm about to say. But me and my mom and Mark almost died in Alaska getting stuck on what we thought was a street. But really it was a walking trail in a suburban at like 10 o'clock at night and it was like negative 30 we had to get towed for our lives –

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh, uh huh.

JVN: Like I thought we were going to end up on fucking Dateline like frozen to death in a goddamn car. I just, I love the outdoors but just anything more than like 45 minutes. Like I don't want to pack a lunch. I don't like, I just, I, I get lost too easily if my phone dies. So just from a safety perspective, if you are gonna like, is it like a compass or something? Like what do you, how do you make sure you don't like bear spray? What do you do if you're like, how can I stay safe for all?

PATTIE GONIA: How can we stay safe? I mean, honestly, more than a compass, more than bear spray. My number one recognition is just –

JVN: Water!

PATTIE GONIA: Is water and sunscreen. So we need the basics, we need water and sunscreen, but we also just need to go outside with friends because the outdoors are less scary when we bring friends with us. So that I, I do not –

JVN: You should go to a park.

PATTIE GONIA: I'm not a huge fan of park alone. Yeah. Just literally go to a park, babe. Like literally go to a park.

JVN: You don't even have to fucking hike if you don't want to. If you're scared about it.

PATTIE GONIA: You don't have to hike. Like truly, it can look like anything. And for me, it looks like hiking in high heels, like so dumb socially but so fun for me. You know, have you, my ankles have suffered ever since.

JVN: Have you, I was just gonna ask about your ankles.

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh.

JVN: Have you had just like a brutal ankle sprain like while hiking? Because I do notice that you have like a thicker heel. So it's not like you're like going out here on these rocks in a stiletto, which is a really smart choice, but we still can't act like your ankles aren't in a platform because there is, I feel like you do have like, it's like a wedge and a heel, isn't it?

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, it's a pleaser heel. So it has, it has like a thick square base which is sturdy. It's, it's very, yeah, it's not a stiletto. But for me, I truly think that Mother Nature blessed me with the most gummy ankles in the world because I roll them all the time. But I've like, never, like, broken an ankle, like, never really sprained an ankle.

JVN: See I've really sprained mine. I have to say like, not just like, you know, I know we don't talk about bodies in 2024 and everything. But the only thing that's like really skinty on me and has always been skinny on me is my ankles.

PATTIE GONIA: Come on, come on.

JVN: Like I do, I have like a really thin ankle. And so it's just like, it really is susceptible to a twist or to like a, I really salute you like for your bravery of hiking in these heels.

PATTIE GONIA: I salute my ankles as well. But this is why I think we need a sturdy heels as like figure skating boots because figure skating boots are so sturdy. They understand ankle support,

JVN: Yeah, I never twisted my ankle and nose because if you do sprain your ankle in a boot, you're kind of fucked. That means you really jar it because it's so stiff.

PATTIE GONIA: Yes, yes, yes. 100%. So, yeah, I, I really think I should prototype the world's first outdoor, you know, hiking heel, but we have too many projects going on right now. But that will be, you know, my, my legacy project in the outdoor space will be to create a pair of high heels that are stronger.

JVN: I have something that's completely non sequitur and has nothing to do with what we were doing –

PATTIE GONIA: Literally ask it. Literally ask it.

JVN: But I do feel the need to ask, have you seen that man on tiktok who like makes what looks to be like five star Michelin star food like outside, but you don't see his face like he'll just bring these like fucking like tenderloins and shit out with like all like he really like cooking in nature. Have you seen this?

PATTIE GONIA: Ooo, wow. You know, I, I probably have seen a video or two. I am a huge fan of cooking ASMR videos, so I probably have seen it.

JVN: What are your thoughts on cooking like a full on meal out over like a fire? Like does that turn you on? Are you overwhelmed by it? Like I, well, what do you think about it?

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh, uh huh. Well, here's what I will say is that if I'm like on a date with a boo outside, like cooking is an amazing thing to do outside. That's really fun. I, because I love cooking with people on dates like inside too. So it's so much fun. But for me, most of the time because I backpack, it's a really like outdoor thing. I'm so tired at the end of like a 10 mile day that I just need a meal that I can throw some hot water in and it rehydrates and I just eat it so much. I eat it so fast.

JVN: So let me get this straight, like, for you, like, a fun day is full Pattie. 10 miles.

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah. Like, 10 to 15 miles.

JVN: But, I mean, I really would rather, I think I was just trying to be too dramatic. Like, would I rather die or hike 15 miles?

PATTIE GONIA: Mhnm, mhm, mhm.

JVN: No. Like, I don't want to die. Like, I would walk 15 miles to live. But, like, I think a better analogy would be like, the money that, like if I was going to walk 15 miles like I want and like,



no the calories isn't the reward. No, my body is not the reward. I want cold hard cash for 15 miles, but I will go outside and like take some breath of fresh air, but I don't want to go for 15 miles.

PATTIE GONIA: I know. And you know –

JVN: Did you always do that or did you work up to that? It's like one of those things where you, like, you want your endorphins and now you just need to do 10 miles because your body just got used to it.

PATTIE GONIA: Mhm, mhm, mhm. You know, I will say that I definitely, I think I've always kind of been that way. You know, like I hate that when I was a kid. Like people told me the outdoors weren't for me because I am very athletic. Like I love doing those things. I love playing –

JVN: She is an athletic girl. You can see in your stories when you do top stuff. It is like you're an athletic person –

PATTIE GONIA: Thank you very much.

JVN: But just a word not to tell you how to live your activist life. But if you're trying to meet more people get outside, I loved when you were saying the thing about, like, just go with your friends outside to a park. Like the 10 to 15 miles is really like, whatever boner I had for, like, doing a hike, it's gone.

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh, uh huh, it's gone.

JVN: Like, I don't want to do that anymore. Not 10 miles, half a mile. What is your community hike start at? Do you tell that beforehand so these girls aren't like –

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. We, we make those very accessible. We have like three different options on the day. So people can literally not hike at all and they can literally just sit and do art –

JVN: Ohh. I love that.

PATTIE GONIA: Or they can do like a medium hike or they can do a hard hike. So we give them options.

JVN: I love that.

PATTIE GONIA: Accessibility, baby. Come on. Come on. Yeah, yeah.

JVN: Yes. So for me, like people will describe, I, people will describe me as an activist, some like an HIV activist or like a, like a policy activist. And I always feel weird when people ascribe or like assign activist to me because I'm like, am I? Like, I have this like guilt about claiming activists because I'm like, and I am I like, am I a writer? Am I a comedian? Am I a hairdresser? Like, am I an activist? Just because I talk about HIV all the time?

PATTIE GONIA: Mhm.

JVN: Like is like, but, but then in other ways, I feel like I was just with Celeste Watkins-Hayes, she um she's like one of our favorite like guests on the podcast and she's the Dean of Students at University of Michigan. And she was like, bitch, well, she didn't say bitch I'm paraphrasing there. But she was like, you are like, you're a public policy activist, like

you are so curious about public policy, you're always talking about it. You're always trying to like get more people into the fold and get out more information, so –

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, I feel that because people also call me an activist and I'm like, you know, that word is crazy because it carries a lot with it. And I think why I think it irks me so much is because the definition that we've known is very limiting in what it is. You know, when we hear the word activist, we often think of people that are on the front lines of protests or the starters of movements. And I wanna advocate for a new definition of activist or of advocate that literally just means you taking who you are and your identity and what you're good at your special skills and applying it to what you care about in this world. Like case in point, the environmental movement needs accountants. Like there are so many nonprofits that need some accounting help. Like maybe you're an accountant and that's your special skill. Go for it. You know, I love no one more at the climate rally than the person who brings the cookies and the banana bread. And like that person is using their talent of cooking to support people. So it's like, can we see that? Like, our human ecosystem is like, has the potential to like, have everyone do their part and make their impact. You know, for example, case in point, you probably heard the phrase, wow, this group is operating like a well oiled machine, right? Probably heard that. Ok, what if instead I said, wow, this group is thriving like a well nurtured meadow. It's different. And for me, when I think of that, when I hear that, I look at that meadow and I see that every single piece of the meadow is doing its thing to support the collective whole. The grass is holding the soil together, the soil and the mycelium in the soil are taking nutrients, hundreds of feet to the trees that need it. The trees are providing shade for the little bunny and everything is doing its thing. And so I want us to see in our activism work and our advocacy work that like we all have something that we can bring to the meadow that is like a thing of abundance. Like what is our thing? Our gift we can give to the meadow to the collective whole. And how can that support the collective whole?

JVN: What about um your glam journey? Because the face beat has come up and you did your own face beat today? Did you not?

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

JVN: So what was it? Was is just like slowly working like just like slowly seeing other people and just kind of how drag works, like tips of the trade and making more friends and then you're just like it's like illumination in this middle of your face. Like that's really, I mean –

PATTIE GONIA: Thank you. Thank you.

JVN: You're giving me Gigi Goode like you're giving me like really expert like makeup application.

PATTIE GONIA: Awe, thank you, babe. The makeup journey has been a long journey and what I will say is that like, oh my God, it was so cringe for me to do makeup like early on and to be like so bad at it. But then I realized that like any artist I've ever loved has gone through such a massive cringe phase and like so much of what's holding us back as artists as humans. Is this not wanting to be cringe or not feeling like it's the right time to start and I just wish I would have just like gone full speed sooner and I wish I would have seen that like if I could get past the cringe like life so good. So yeah, for me, it's been a very long journey, but we're here now and I love makeup. I think it's amazing. And honestly your life being a set up for your life, like I watched my mom who is totally a drag queen apply makeup for hours as a

kid. And I was always so fascinated with the process and little did I know that I would just end up, you know, applying makeup on my face for a living.

JVN: What can you say like the one thing that you that took your, is there one makeup hack that took your makeup application to the next level?

PATTIE GONIA: I will tell you two. One is that if you were ever doing drag, you have to start your eyebrows where your eyebrows actually start because for so long, I was like painting them up here or I was painting them like this. So just start your eyebrows where your eyebrows start. The second thing is truly like I had such bad skin when I used to drink and now that I don't drink or I drink very little, my skin is just cleared up so much and my skin is ready for makeup. So yeah, I would honestly just say that like that has helped my makeup so much too is having a good, good skin base, so –

JVN: That's so true inside job. Ok, we got it.

PATTIE GONIA: Mhm, inside job.

JVN: It's rapid fire. We're here. Are you ready?

PATTIE GONIA: It's rapid fire. Let's do it.

JVN: What is your budget? Beauty recommendation under \$10?

PATTIE GONIA: Oh my gosh. If you –

JVN: One product.

PATTIE GONIA: Good sunscreen. If you can find it.

JVN: Under \$10!

PATTIE GONIA: If you can find it, if you can find it, sometimes it goes on sale.

JVN: Do you have on brand?

PATTIE GONIA: I don't have a brand.

JVN: I'm gonna need, I can't go for your, for your rapid fire honey. I need. Is it Vaseline? Is it fucking, is it a, is it a rag?

PATTIE GONIA: Oh my god. Ok, you know what? You know what? You know what, you know what I would say? Some good Q tips because I never used to clean out the makeup from inside my eye and now we have clean eyes. Now we have clean eyes too.

JVN: I'm really into this. I'm really into this. Splurge recommendation.

PATTIE GONIA: A splurge recommendation. Uh, I use this Youth to the People cleanser that has changed my life.

JVN: What's a product you never leave home without? Is it sunscreen?

PATTIE GONIA: It's it's sunscreen but also a product I never leave without is my reuseable water bottle. So –

JVN: Oh, that's a good one. What's your favorite vintage beauty look or beauty memory?

PATTIE GONIA: Anything that Marlena Dietrich did is incredible to me. Like an amazing, amazing person who played with gender everywhere and I just, I love them.

JVN: Ok. Now it's rapid fire favorites. I kind of just changed this, this used to be Meh or Major but now I'm like obsessed with just like, but this is fast and you just got to give it to us. What's your favorite hiking heel?

PATTIE GONIA: Any heel you have in your backpack, babe.

JVN: Best backpack?

PATTIE GONIA: This, this company named Granite Gear. Makes incredible backpacks.

JVN: Favorite fragrance?

PATTIE GONIA: Oh, for drag Portrait of a Lady is incredible. And for out of drag, I use Band of Outlaws.

JVN: Uh, best Moisturizer?

PATTIE GONIA: Uh, I'm obsessed with Kiehl's.

JVN: Ok. You can't go wrong. Candle? Candle company more specifically, or sent and candle?

PATTIE GONIA: Candle, read me for filth but any candle that Erwhon makes, I love.

JVN: Ooo she's bougie. She's a, she's successful. Get out of her fucking face. Pomade?

PATTIE GONIA: Pomade. Oh, my gosh. I use Kevin Murphy. I like it.

JVN: Oh yeah that Rough Rider. Night Rider. Which one?

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. The green one. Whatever the green one is.

JVN: Yeah, I, I think that's a clay one. I like. I used to use Kevin Murphy a lot. I really like that.

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah it is, it's great stuff.

JVN: Best blush?

PATTIE GONIA: I've been using this Kosas blush and a little bit of shimmer.

JVN: I love Kosas.

PATTIE GONIA: Oh my gosh. They're so great. They're amazing.

JVN: Patrick Ta's are really good too. I'm really into his right now. And also REM.

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, yes. REM. Ariana come on.

JVN: Favorite fashion era?

PATTIE GONIA: The eighties. They were so camp. I love camp fashion.

JVN: Favorite nail color?

PATTIE GONIA: Oh gosh. I mean, I go with dark green with a little bit of shimmer all the time, but for me it's just gonna be like any color that looks good on your skin tone because people be wearing the wrong colors for their skin tone.

JVN: Best hairspray?

PATTIE GONIA: I'm a drag queen. So it has to be got to be because it's the, the hairspray of drag queens. Strong.

JVN: Best Foundation?

PATTIE GONIA: You know, I use Kryolan, which is theater makeup. It's like crayon TV. Paint sticks. They are incredible.

JVN: Cause you want full coverage for Pattie?

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, they're, oh my God. This is a whole entire layer on my face.

JVN: Ok. But what about best handbag handbag?

PATTIE GONIA: Best handbag? Well, I had one made for me out of some like what's called like Deadstock climbing rope. And so it's literally this handbag that's like use this like climbing rope that you can't climb on anymore because it's has some tears in it and we made it into a handbag. It's amazing.

JVN: Sustainable ass fucking queen. Favorite movie?

PATTIE GONIA: Favorite movie? I have lots. But I would say right now because we're in the Halloween spirit, Serial Mom is so good. John Waters original.

JVN: This might be the hardest for you favorite national park?

PATTIE GONIA: Oh my gosh. Yosemite.

JVN: Best setting spray? Final one.

PATTIE GONIA: I use the setting spray called Green Marble and it is like theater grade like it is like barrier spray.

JVN: Oh I bet that's what Frances Hannon was talking about about her sealants. We just got to have the um, hair and makeup from –

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh yeah, the makeup artist!

JVN: Yes from um, I was about to say –

PATTIE GONIA: Wicked.

JVN: Yes, yes, yes but I think that's like the sealant type stuff she was talking about like not your basic girl setting spray like what I use at home. It's like you can go through a hurricane and like the pigment is still there.

PATTIE GONIA: You literally can and a hurricane is what I would call –

JVN: But does it dry your skin out, that one?

PATTIE GONIA: Kind of, but I do a lot of skin prep stuff, so, you know.

JVN: So it's ok.

PATTIE GONIA: Yeah, yeah, yeah but it's fine.

JVN: What makeup remover? I need one more because because you're taking makeup Buffalo, what's your favorite makeup remover?

PATTIE GONIA: This Youth to the People makeup remover is seriously like incredible.

JVN: That's different than the cleanser?

PATTIE GONIA: Uh, no, they, they make they make both. It's different than the cleanser.

JVN: It's like, it's like a cream makeup remover.

PATTIE GONIA: It's like, um, uh, almost like –

JVN: A cold cream type. Like, Ponds?

PATTIE GONIA: It's not, it's not a cold cream. I love ponds, by the way. Like, grandmas know what's up? Like grandmas know, Ponds is good. It's very underrated. But this, uh, it's like, it's like scoopable and then you, like, you put it in your hands and you warm it up and it turns into like it melts.

JVN: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Oh, it's like a melting thing. I love those.

PATTIE GONIA: We are melting, yeah, it's crazy.

JVN: Actually. Sorry. Did you add your, are your ears pierced? Are those carabiners clipped on? Because these earrings are cute.

PATTIE GONIA: My ears are pierced. Um, these carabiners are clipped on and my earlobes suffer because of it. But I think they're kind of cunty.

JVN: No, they're, they're full cunt. I have been like getting like ears pierced. Curious. I don't have any piercings is the thing I haven't done and I've been getting like a little curious.

PATTIE GONIA: I think that earrings are such a fun way to spice up a look. You know, there's such a fun little, just like piece of art. You get a dingle in your ear.

JVN: And it's like not willing to invest in a clip on because I'm worried I'm going to lose it. So I just, I mean, they're going to go full and I'm also scared of getting ripped. Have you ever like almost ripped one out of your ear lobe or no?

PATTIE GONIA: Uh huh. Yeah, like so many times.

JVN: that's what I'm scared of. And that's been what's been keeping me from doing it. But you're a brave fucking hot queen and if you can and if anyone can handle it, it's you Pattie Gonia. Thank you so much for coming on Getting um Pretty Curious. We love you so much. You're like our fave guys and you're just so cute and please keep it up and just we love you so much and we'll always be cheering for you.

PATTIE GONIA: Oh my gosh. I love y'all too. It was such an honor to be here and this is the only planet with a Beyonce on it. So we better save her right?

JVN: Oh my God. What a good way to end. And also thank you, start busting out this glam in this hair for us, honey. You look so fucking.

PATTIE GONIA: Of course. Of course. Of course. Thank you.

JVN: I love you, honey. Thanks for coming on.

PATTIE GONIA: Bye baby.

JVN: You've been listening to Pretty Curious with me, Jonathan Van Ness. You can learn more about this week's guest in the episode description and follow us on Instagram and TikTok @CuriouswithJVN. Pretty Curious drops every Monday wherever you get your podcasts and make sure to tune in every Wednesday for Getting Curious. Still can't get enough? Honey, you're insatiable! Subscribe to Extra Curious on Apple Podcasts for commercial free listening and our subscription only show, Ask JVN, where we're talking all about sex, relationships, or really just whatever's on my mind that week. Our theme music is composed by Nathanael McClure. Come on Nathanael! Our editor and engineer is also Nathanael McClure, yes! Getting Curious is produced by me, Chris McClure with production support from Julie Carrillo, Anne Currie and Chad Hall.