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Checklist: Your Privilege

Or, Minority Poets Tell All — and it's bad

Is your door sufficiently wide to let our wide faces through?

Have you considered the extraordinary strength it takes to support these heads, will you massage our necks?

Have the last three hundred men you've invited to read been interspersed with a woman, at least in blocks?

Have you ever looked around and thought sociologically, this is a bit of a TOTAL sausagefest?

Do you need us to explain what systemic means? Have you thought about installing a loo?

When you do things like write comic raps attributed to women rappers you've invented to parody successful slam figures like Kate Tempest, do you title these mock raps things like Quantum Slut?

What do you think of this sentiment 'Fuck capitalism in every hole in which it has fucked us'?

Which holes have you been fucked in, can you be more specific?

Is your idea of critical discourse seven men in their fifties with Oxbridge degrees in seven different libraries in the

South East trying to make the link between Ctrl C and Ctrl V?

Was your lecture on postmodernism, when you said that it 'evokes ideas of irony, disruption, parody and simulation', an allegory of your frequent mansplaining?

Are you using your night as an opportunity to promote your latest pamphlet, a block text screenprint small press masterpiece entitled CALLED OUT: the radical accumulation of man feelings and hurt debt in the global community of embodied h8rs?

Do you think that your pathos and self-awareness, sensitively detailed in your best-selling books *Pathetic Bookish Men* and *Vulnerability*, consisting of screeds of your male protagonists' millennial loneliness in the posthumanist landscape punctuated by feelings of anger and general guilt over the sorry state of liberal politics and rampant inequality, authorize predatory behaviour?

Have you confused one of the only two female poets in the room with the other one, in which case have you ever been confused with every other white man, as you are so many?

Have you confused one of the only two Asian poets in the room with the other one? Do you really think we can patch things up over a few of your Arts Council-funded beers?

Do you think that poetry is a big emotional experience that validates privilege?

Are you feeling vulnerable tonight? Do you want to tell me about it? Are you willing to receive an invoice for my time?

Do you write formidable poems about stones and savaged birds' nests, and empty houses where imaginary brothers you believed were yourself had died grisly ritual deaths? And when you're no longer able to write a line, you've substituted writing poetry with getting drunk and convincing your students how vital poetry is by seducing them in its name? Is this a failure on your part to remain 'intellectually pliant'? Does being aware and really sorry about it make it ok?

Is your magazine called Squid Fuck? Is your magazine called Sticky Stick? Is your magazine called Cunt Pedestrian? Is your chapbook called Inca Fuck Boy? Are your emails apologising for kneejerk misogyny and defence of rape culture like a 1000 pages long, are you thinking of circulating them as an open letter to the dear world and everyone in it? Would you like me to consider publishing your manuscript, TO FEEL MORE KEENLY: why broets matter (a series of aggressively unpunctuated prose poems in which the bodies of passive women are violated by the speaker in order for him to fully express his sadness about class and the situation in Palestine)?

Does your artistic statement, to express your personal and political anger through a cross-disciplinary format which challenges Anglo-centric notions of creativity, make allowances for the consistently all-male lineups at your poetry nights, and also your generally pervy nature?

Have you got any ideas about how I could change my name?

Will you politely replace me in your anthology with other broadly comparable representative females?

Do you believe that the laws of sausage no longer reign and that that writing poetry about white male privilege is unduly provocative?