

Tom Rasmussen

Author / Composer

Tom Rasmussen is a writer and musician from Lancaster. Their first two books — *Diary of a Drag Queen* (Ebury and FSG), *First Comes Love* (Bloomsbury) — were both critical successes. They contribute regularly to the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *Independent*, *Dazed&Confused*, and *i-D*. They are a columnist at *American Vogue*, where they write about sex and relationships. Their debut musical, for which they have co-composed the music and lyrics, based on David Nicholls' *Starter For Ten*, is far into development. Tom is currently working on a series for *South of the River Pictures*, as well as adapting their second book for screen with STV.



Tom Rasmussen's debut album *Body Building* fuses dark dance music with an aesthetic and live performance that takes influence from their past life in drag. Born and raised in Lancashire, Tom moved to London where they fell into the world of drag for a decade, performing everywhere from the Royal Opera House to Glastonbury to the West End. Although their drag alter ego Crystal was distinct for singing live rather than lip syncing, it wasn't until Rasmussen started writing their own music that their performance persona began to change, revealing more of themselves. Thus came their debut album *Body Building*, an album that pierces the skin with its falsetto vocals and moments of queer euphoria punctuated by acoustic instrumentation. Having already toured with Rina Sawayama and Self Esteem in the UK, Tom Rasmussen has already made waves with audiences across the UK, especially with their single – *Dysphoria* – the inimitably catchy, powerful yet poignant ode to their experience with their body.

Reviews for CRYSTAL RASMUSSEN PRESENTS THE BIBLE 2 (PLUS A CURE FOR SHAME, VIOLENCE, BETRAYAL AND ATHLETE'S FOOT):

“Crystal Rasmussen gives a bold, brave performance. It is a true privilege to witness their naked body wiggling and writhing in this dark Cowgate ally.” ★★★★★ *Ed Fest Magazine*

“This is the most affirmative, queer-positive show you will see and it does it with club anthems, a light-up storybook and a fabulous queen with a heart as huge and beautiful as her voice.” ★★★★★ *The Scotsman*

"From the hour, it's hard to choose a favourite moment, there are so many highlights. What has remained with me the most are the sultry vocals, the sensual/absurd bath in the paddling pool...and the honest storytelling from Crystal's bible- her life, the ups and downs of what it means to embrace yourself and remove shame." ★★★★★ *Snack*

"*Crystal Rasmussen presents The Bible 2* delights in its high camp comedy and cleverly interpreted musical numbers, but its most impressive asset is its heart and poignancy. Tom's discussion of the queer experience and his personal journey will undoubtedly resonate with many, providing an absorbing, optimistic and cathartic emotional journey." ★★★★★ *Culture Fix*

"The beguiling Crystal Rasmussen strikes it out on her own in this solo show that transitions seamlessly – almost imperceptibly, at times – between Crystal's origins and that of Tom, their real-life persona." ★★★★★ *The List*

"Drag cabaret with a twist, it offers moments that punch you in the gut and others so uplifting this reviewer got goosebumps, particularly when Rasmussen sings; their voice is astonishing." ★★★★★ *Three Weeks*

They host Comedy Central's hit online series, DRAGONY AUNTS. The first series is available now and a second series is to come.

Praise for DIARY OF A DRAG QUEEN:

"Diary Of A Drag Queen Is A Heartfelt Memoir Of Queerness and Non-Conformity" - *British Vogue*

"gloriously outrageous... Soul-baring, shamelessly explicit, and wickedly funny, Rasmussen's relentlessly entertaining book gets beneath the glitter and drama of drag to reveal how a practice often dismissed as misogynistic can serve as a kind of salvation for many nonbinary people... A sharp-eyed and hilarious memoir." - *Kirkus*

"The book on everyone's desk at Glamour HQ right now ... hilarious... [It is] a unique portrayal of the queer experience and we're so here for it." - *Glamour*

"It's about late nights, breakups, it's about sex, love, violence, pain, and the euphoria only people who've ever been on the outside come to feel when they finally discover what's inside — both in a community and in themselves... real, hilarious [and] deeply moving." - *LOVE Magazine*

"[M]oments of heart-stopping poignancy... truthful, revealing and obscenely hilarious... Strident and unapologetic but really sweet, too." - *Attitude*

"[A] riotous portrayal of the contemporary queer experience." - *Dazed*

"Everyone is going to die, it's so funny, warm, loving, beautifully written. A complete page-turner... A proud voice for the non-binary community." - *Gay Times*

"Love, LOVE this book. It is so human and sweet and SO RUDE" - Marina and the Diamonds

"Hilarious, deeply moving, uplifting, daring, and unflinchingly honest" - Amrou Al-Kadhi

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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
Diary of a Drag Queen 2019 Ebury Press	Northern, working-class and shagging men three times her age, Crystal writes candidly about her search for 'the one'; sleeping with a VIP in an attempt to become a world famous journalist; getting hired and fired by a well-known fashion magazine; being torn between losing weight and gorging on KFC; and her need for constant sexual satisfaction (and where that takes her). Charting her day-to-day adventures over the course of a year, we encounter tucks, twists and sucks, heinous overspending and endless nights spent sprinting from problem to problem in a full face of make-up. This is a place where the previously unspeakable becomes the commendable – a unique portrayal of the queer experience.