Hi! My name is Junix (he/him + they/them) and I'm a drag king, a member of @anakbayanpdx, and I like to write poetry. I'm a nonbinary & transmasculine queer, and in drag I go by Prince Lavender.

You can find me at @prince.lavender (and at my art account, @queerly.departed which is where I post digital design, poetry, and a lot of stickers). I'm also a spoonie (research “spoon theory” if that's a new term for you!)

I was born in Portland, OR which is located on the traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, bands of the Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River. I grew up in St. Johns (RIP Tulip Bakery and Anna Bananas) and I've lived in various Portland neighborhoods since then!

This week I'll be going more in depth about Anakbayan PDX, which is a grassroots organization of Filipino youth and students fighting for National Democracy in the Philippines. But that's a whole lot of language, so I'll get more detailed in a future post! I'll also be covering alternative, all-ages drag in Portland by going more in depth about Dang Heckin Nerdy Drag, the youth-led drag collective I co-founded with my lovely drag wife @e.v.e.exe. Mid-week I'll be sharing some writing prompts based on the writing workshop I co-host with @moon.unis called “Tender Community Garden.”
Prince Lavender here! I got my drag start in July of 2018 thanks to the encouragement of local drag queen @e.v.e.exe and also the nonprofit @marrowpdx. Marrow hosted the very first drag show that Eve and I produced together, which was an all-ages show themed after Steven Universe. I performed my first drag act at that show as nonbinary icon Stevonnie.

Since that first show Marrow PDX has become a home away from home for myself and many of the youth drag performers I know. Although Covid has required Marrow to close the doors to its physical location for the time being, you can still find lots of phenomenal youth artists and activists through the Marrow Instagram account!

Inspired by the talent and creativity of the youth performers in the Steven Universe show, Eve and I formed Dang Heckin Nerdy Drag, a drag collective for any youth with an interest in drag. There are many barriers which prevent youth from engaging in the drag scene, such as the lack of all ages venues, and DHND was founded in response to this community need.

Covid has also changed the shape of PDX drag. This year, DHND will be hosting our third annual “Ghastly Gala” drag show online! This will be our third annual Ghastly Gala in which we celebrate all things Halloween.

Scroll through this canva for where to find DHND and also for some of my favorite drag memories because I've been missing live drag!
We like to host shows with nerdy themes! Some themes we’ve had in the past are:

Sailor Moon, Video Games, Steven Universe, Halloween, Anime, etc.

Who is DHND?

DHND categorizes 'youth' as ages 10-24, but the youngest performer ever featured in one of our shows was 7!

Here’s some drag artists who regularly perform with us! (check the tags)

Where to find us:

Facebook: facebook.com/DangHeckinNerdyDrag

our shop: dang-heckin-nerdy-drag.square.site
Some of my fave drag memories...

"Childhood Cartoons" Drag Show Performed as "Him" from the PowerPuff Girls

"Pillbox" Drag Show: A show for disabled drag artists

Peacock in the Park
October 7, 2020

This activity is a writing/imagination/meditation/prayer prompt. If you'd like to use these as writing prompts, you will need paper and a writing utensil for this activity. If you'd like to use this as a meditation, then all you need is to listen and imagine! Take what speaks to you in these videos/prompts and leave what doesn't.

These prompts were partially inspired by “Tender Community Garden” (TCG) which is the writing workshop and open mic that I host with @moon.unis. TCG is an online workshop that Briauna and I put on once a month (though we hope to build more capacity!). We like to use things like tarot, oracle cards, bibliomancy, poems, etc. to generate writing and reflection prompts. In TCG we hold space for reflecting on the seasons, for building with friends, for vulnerability, honoring our emotions, and for imagining a liberated world.

As an organizer with @anakbayanpdx I also understand that it is my duty not only to dream of the liberated world, but to win that world as well. With fascism on the rise, environmental destruction at the hands of colonialism and imperialism, and the dual pandemics of covid and racism, it is often a struggle not to slip into despair. This is your permission to feel your grief, and to honor it. This is also an invitation to vividly imagine a better world; to imagine the victories that we are marching for; to imagine the ousting of President Duterte; to imagine achieving the demands of the Black Lives Matter movement; to imagine returning land stewardship to Indigenous peoples; to imagine dancing in the place of bloodshed; to imagine the celebration; and then to imagine the day after that. For if we do not nurture our wishes for liberation, how will we continue to fight?

View video at this link:
https://www.instagram.com/p/CGEFXhVBUVQ/
October 8, 2020
Do you know about the Anti Terror Law (ATL) in the Philippines? On July 17th, Duterte's Anti Terror Law went into effect. This Anti Terror Law threatens the basic human rights of the Filipino people. The law criminalizes dissent, and places intentionally obscure meaning on the definition of “terrorist.” Under the guise of the ATL, the Duterte regime has murdered land defenders and human rights defenders in the Philippines through state-sanctioned violence. Ka Randy Echanis and Zara Alvarez are just two of the many losses we are mourning as Filipino organizers and activists.

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October 8, 2020 (continued)

In light of this context, today I wanted to share what it’s like to be an organizer with @anakbayanpdx. According to the Duterte regime, my kasamas and I would be labeled terrorists. But my kasamas* are teachers and inspirations to me. Here I’ve included two conversations I’ve had with my Anakbayan kasamas recently. The first conversation was an opportunity to internalize the knowledge that we are stronger as a collective. A kasama brought me a meal he’d cooked because I was struggling with my mental health a few weeks ago. We discussed sharing labor and it reminded me that investments in others are investments in ourselves. As a community we share conditions, and resources, and burdens. My kasamas explain organizing by speaking about a broom: individually, the strands of a broom are ineffective. But bonded together and united, a broom can effectively sweep away dust, just as we will sweep away the rubble and ashes of the U.S-Duterte fascist regime.

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The second conversation posted here was between another kasama and myself, and we discussed the importance of cultural work in the movement! No matter what kind of skills you have or type of work you’re interested in, there is a role in the revolution for everyone. Makibaka! Huwang Matakot! Dare to struggle! Do not be afraid!

*kasama means friend/comrade!

#ActivismIsNotTerrorism #OustDuterte #JunkTerrorLaw #JunkATL #OUSTDU30 #ActivismIsNotACrime #Anakbayanako #joinanakbayan
where do art and grassroots organizing intersect? Junix again! One of the tasks I like to do for @anakbayanpdx is making propaganda! In the U.S we are taught to associate “propaganda” with brainwashing and other negative implications. But in Anakbayan when we talk about propaganda, we mean art and visuals that help educate, organize, and mobilize the masses. Propaganda is art that serves the people by sharing information, getting folks in touch with their emotions, and forwarding revolutionary ideas. Cultural work like dance, singing, story telling, and writing plays an important role in the fight for liberation because we need a cultural revolution. We need to imagine alternatives to capitalism, and to build our capacity for sustained organizing and community care. This poem is one example of how I was able to weave together one of my favorite forms of art (poetry) into my work as a member of Anakbayan. I read this poem in the backdrop of a skit my kasamas performed for PSONA (The People's State of The Nation Address) this year. PSONA is an even that Anakbayan hosts in collaboration with other orgs like Malaya Movement and Gabriella annually. The goal of PSONA is to speak to the real issues faced by the Filipino people and especially peasants, farm workers, and Indigenous folks in the Philippines. It was with that goal in mind that I wrote this piece.

Be sure to follow the Anakbayan Instagram for information about lots of stuff like upcoming webinars, our environmental justice desk, and occasional sailor moon memes.

#propaganda #anakbayanako #oustduterte #oustdu30 #oustdutertenow #poetry #poem #writing #philippines
We heard the wail in the belly of the beast.
It sounded like freedom. Not the Uncle Sam shit but freedom like we have never tasted.
Like a mango grown by the worker on land owned by the worker.
Sweet and nourishing like the labor of the Filipino peasant.

On the day Duterte was ousted there was as much dancing in the streets as there had been blood the day before.
I looked hard, piously at the smiles of every single kasama.
I still remember the exact tilt of each kasama’s lips.
As we danced we caught on fire, for the revolution burned in us.
We wailed. In joy and grief.
We were each of us one grain of sand grinding the gears of the imperialist war machine reborn with each turning with each isang bagsak with each chant of “Makibaka!” We cried “Huwang matakot!” And we had no fear to die. And we had no fear to live.

On the day Duterte was ousted those of us in the belly of the beast knew that our position would only make the gutting of the beast all the easier.
October 10, 2020

In drag fashion, I finalized the details mere minutes ago, but TODAY at 6pm I will be going live with The Eggboy (@chasemiloreid) a local drag queen and also one of the collective members at @marrowpdx! Take a look at the stories posts today to submit any and all inquiries to me and Chase about the art of drag, or in my case to ask any questions about Anakabayan / grassroots organizing.

This is my last day of this social media takeover, and I wanted to say salamat (thanks!) to Five Oaks for sharing this platform with me, and thanks to everyone who commented or learned something new with me this week. You can find updates about drag, as well as the monthly writing workshop I help host over at @prince.lavender and on my art account @queerly.departed you can find my poetry, drawings, and experiments with photography.

In solidarity,
Junix
October 10, 2020
Prince Lavender & The Eggboy

In the culmination of this week's social media takeover, Prince Lavender and The Eggboy discuss Portland drag, Marrow PDX, and more! The Eggboy does eir makeup during the chat. (Apologies there isn't any captioning, it's not a service Instagram provides!)

View video at this link:
https://www.instagram.com/p/CGEFXhVBUVQ/