Pre-set/ Pre-intro

* **Small cakes on seating for people to eat**
* Pre-set lights are the asexual flag colours
* A-Okay song on screen
* Audience seated then - Dramatic intro into Countdown with lights (5,4,3,2,1) – thunderbirds tune also
* Jump out of cake

SECTION ONE

**(Lights transfer to general wash)**

Hellllllllllooooo. Thank you for coming to my show in The Plus. Are you enjoying your cake?

Firstly, let’s start with some context, let’s play a little game, raise your hand if you have heard of homosexuality? Raise your hand if you have heard of asexuality before today? Raise your hand if you knew I was asexual before today? Raise your hand if you knew asexuality meant having no desire to have sex? Finally, now raise your hand if you knew in a world population of over seven billion, you knew there were only 70 million asexuals alive today? No hands, I was going to say id be pretty shocked if you knew that. Putting that into further perspective that means only 1% of the population are believed to be asexual which we put up a map. (**AV - PROJECTION OF MAP 1, JR POINTS TO SCREEN)**

Ironically that cover the whole population of the UK (**AV - PROJECTION OF MAP 2, JR POINTS TO SCREEN)**well…. if you add in the republic of Congo (**AV - PROJECTION OF MAP 3, JR POINTS TO SCREEN)**for good measure. Now look at that map. 1% of the population when I was researching even that threw me back. This is why are often considered the invisible orientation.

**AV - (IN THE PLUS SLIDE)**

So now I’ve given some context on how rare it is to see an asexual I thought how I can give you an insight into being asexual in the most James Reilly way possible , Soooooooo…. ***(TAKES OUT A CABBAGE).*** Meet Steve, yes, he is a cabbage but shhhh don’t tell him that, he might hear you, he is very sensitive. Anyway, using Steve as your focus.

I want you Imagine that you live in a world where everyone is obsessed with cabbages. Poets write odes to cabbages, (**AV - PROJECTION OF SHAKESPEARE, JR POINTS TO SCREEN)**and beautiful oil paintings are dedicated to the beauty of cabbages. (AV - **PROJECTION OF OIL PAINTING, JR POINTS TO SCREEN)** In short, human society is shaped, defined, and ruled by this green vegetable.

(**IN THE PLUS SLIDE – AV)**

But there’s one small problem: you don’t like cabbages. It’s not like you have any particular vendetta against it—you just know it isn’t for you. You may have even tried it once or twice out of curiosity, although the experience wasn’t exactly satisfying.

Now replace that cabbage with sex, and you’ve just peeked into the mind of an asexual. Well…kind of…. Maybe specifically this asexual ***(Wink)*** so It’s not a perfect analogy, obviously, but its definitely a James Reilly analogy.

However, I think you get the picture asexuals have no interest in sex, doesn’t float our boat. Thank you very much Steve take a bow ***(Bows with Steve in hand and drops) ….*** Oh god…. uuuumm…. ***(Kicks Steve to the side)*** Im sure he is ok……moving forward.

**SECTION TWO**

**So….who want more cake! I CAN’T HEAR YOU! Well it’s your lucky day! *(Goes through the audience handing put cake)*** I suppose you might also be wondering what’s up with the cake you received when entering…. apart from the case of cake just being fricking amazing, cake is actually a symbol of asexuality along with a black ring im wearing now on my right hand and obviously the asexual flag. For asexuals this food item attaches to the slogan Cake is better than sex as for people like me we quite frankly sit round a table with someone and eat a chocolate fudge cake whilst watching doctor who**. Now have you all got some cake! Good! Well sit back and relax as we are going to watch the trailer for the next big movie I think its Oscar worthy. Hit it. (Sit with audience bottom row)**

**(VIDEO PLAYS)**

Section Three

* **Video ends straight into the voiceover**
* Projection of text with voiceover

 **(AV, LX, AND SQ AT THE SAME TIME)**

* LX CUE – Spotlight on

**VO1:** It’s a struggle being asexual as much as im happy now, finding out who I was honestly, the hardest thing, the struggle of finding out was wrong me teared me apart. I found it hard growing up having no idea asexuality was possible, it led to a lot of confusion in high school. Later, I tried to have sex a few times, but I felt nothing I wondered what the hell was wrong with me. I cried, and I felt very lonely. I thought I'd be "broken" for the rest of my life. I see videos like the one at Tokyo pride and it makes me think, will I ever be accepted.

**VO2:** People think asexual means broken, or emotionless and think you just haven’t found the right person. Then on top of that, you are excluded from LGBT+ spaces for not being queer enough. In a world that thinks love without sex doesn’t exist finding a partner who understands your sexuality and is accepting of it proves to be pretty hard. However, the ace community is fantastic. Everyone’s so positive and helpful and lovely. The biggest thing struggle is combatting the misconception that ace people can’t have happy relationships.

**VO3:** I came out as Ace when I was in high school around year 8. I thought it would be easier and, in a way, it was but I got bullied relentlessly. That experience led me to be closeted in College. I'm surrounded by people who are bi or gay or trans and I think that they'll accept me and be tolerant, but I'm still scared there's prejudice. I also have moments where I act kind of Bi and overly sexual as a joke and to mask my own sexuality. I heard a girl who was sat at our table at college talk about asexuality and say she didn't believe it was real. I was trying to defend it whilst not revealing my own sexuality. I tend to say "my ace friend" when I really mean me when talking about ace stuff...

**(LX – CENTRE SPOTLIGHT AS VOICEOVER ENDS)**

**(James):** I went through college feeling something was wrong with me, people kept always talking about sex and I was their confused why I wasn’t thinking in the same way. I just wanted the questions to end. The never ending, why wont you have sex James? I’ve seen the way you look at that girl you should fuck her what are you waiting for? Awh that adorable? but Its normal to have sex! And that’s the one. Normal. I got that a lot. I hated myself, I didn’t understand, why don’t I desire sex like everyone else does why doesn’t it interest me. I was told Having sex is normal, yet I didn’t and don’t want it. I started to feel I was broken and pointless. Of course, I want someone to spend my life with, I want to be happy with someone, but I’ve felt lonely, I still feel lonely. I’ve always thought im unlovable because I don’t have the basic requirement to be loved in society. I got depressed, I used to harm myself, I cut, I punched and ripped my nails from my fingers. I was a mess struggling to find myself in world that felt so small. I felt pushed and constricted. Then it escalated…. I contemplated suicide daily and one day I picked up a bottle of washing up liquid and placed it upon my right cheek it was at this point I realised I needed to find some answers. I had counselling and I was told it’s a phase, you’ll grow out of it. I never did I’ve lived with this lack of desire for sex since I was a teenager. But then I found in my 1st year of university someone who was asexual she told me to check AVEN and all my pain started to leave me on that day. I realised I was apart of community of people in the world that felt the same things as I did. I no longer feel broken I feel healed and happy to find an answer and a community to fall back on.

**(Lights go to pre-set flag lights)**

My name is james reilly I don’t desire sex, but I do desire to love. Im not a monster and I don’t have a disease im just a man who has no sexual desire. Im proud to be an asexual man and I am me and I should be happy in my skin not ashamed. Thank you all for coming today I hope I given you a glimpse into the the world of asexuality. **Finally, if any cake is still left outside grab it or I will have to eat it all honestly take as much as you want because im not joking when I was saying asexuals love cake, we really do.** Again, thank you for coming to my show in The Plus and if you have any questions I would to answer them.

**(SQ AND LX OF FLAG AT THE SAME TIME – RETURN TO PRE-SET)**