

DAILY EXPRESS

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how Julia replaced George...

JULIA TV
GRANT -
REVIEW

GEORGE has quite definitely now become Julia. In what must be the most astounding surgical operation ever seen on television, a man is turned into a woman in a trilogy of "Inside Story" starting on BBC2 at 10:00 tonight.

The first episode was seen 18 months ago when George Roberts, a trawlerman's son from Fleetwood, first started on his incredible journey across the boundaries of male and female gender.

This is not a programme for the squeamish, and there must be doubts about whether TV cameras should intervene in recording such a profound decision in anyone's life.

Humour

Nevertheless, George/Julia's transformation is carried out with dignity and humour and Julia emerges as a remarkably well-balanced and impressive human being.

In order to convince a psychiatrist that he is serious, George has to dress and live as a woman for a year, changing his name to Julia Grant and pressuring the medical men to perform the operation.

It is not easy. Julia lives in a council flat in an area where men in drag are not appreciated. Someone puts flaming rags through her letter box to try to burn her out.

She moves on from her job as a hospital caterer to become a barmaid in a gay club—"I couldn't go into a straight club because in the end men only want one thing."

Julia's sessions with her psychiatrist are tough. Eventually she can wait no longer and arranges privately to have an operation to give her a false bust. The surgeon's fee is £250 and one pair of plastic breasts is an extra £140.

Her psychiatrist is not pleased because she does it without consulting him. "It is a medical matter and not a personal choice," he



Julia: Impressive

tells her. "I don't like people who step out of line. I find it, to say the least, irritating."

Julia, however, is in the grip of some compulsive drive of nature that makes her determined to change sex.

She finally persuades a surgeon at the Charing Cross Hospital in London that she is ready to change sex. The operation is seen in the final programme on Friday night.

Story

And afterwards, Julia — once the father of two children — says: "I have been recreated, redesigned, resculptured. There is no pretence any more. George Roberts has disappeared. He just went."

Julia hopes that her story told on television will help "straight" people to understand transexuals.

She got a fee of £2,000 for the three BBC films, which helped to pay for her operations.

James Murray

From

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[PRESS MONITORING AGENCY FOR TRANS-SEXUALS]