# Beware Reform says Russell Tovey. It'll be like history repeating itself.



Actor Russell Tovey has issued a stark warning to the LGBTQ+ community about the potential political challenges ahead, urging preparedness against a possible Reform UK government that could reverse hard-won liberties. In a recent interview with Attitude magazine, he reflected on the cyclical nature of homophobic politics, drawing a direct line from the oppressive climate of the late 1980s and 1990s to the present moment. Speaking candidly about his latest film, Plainclothes, which is set in 1997 and follows an undercover police officer tasked with entrapping gay men, Tovey highlighted how the themes of the film resonated with his own experiences growing up gay during a time of societal hostility.

Tovey underscored the importance of visibility and solidarity within the queer community, stressing that being an ally to one another is vital but often overlooked. He pointed to the resurgence of political hostility reminiscent of Section 28—the notorious law that prohibited the 'promotion' of homosexuality in schools—and the continued presence of homophobia in media and politics. 'We have to get into a position where we’re ready to go from day one when that happens, so that as soon as they’re in, we’re ready to fight back,' he told Attitude, underscoring an urgent call to action.

The actor also reflected deeply on his personal journey, recounting the shame he felt during his teenage years due to the lack of safe spaces for queer people at the time. He described this internal conflict as a 'space of purgatory' between the torment of hiding his identity and the liberation that came with acceptance. This personal struggle informed his portrayal of Andrew, a closeted gay man in Plainclothes, where themes of shame, self-policing, and survival under surveillance are central. Critics and interviews reveal that Tovey’s performance brings an authentic gravitas to the role, highlighting how much of his own history informs his artistic choices.

Beyond the political and personal, Tovey has also spoken about the challenging intimacy scenes in Plainclothes, which he described as 'poetic' and carefully choreographed to balance authenticity with respect and safety, reflecting evolving standards in the film industry around depicting queer sexuality responsibly. He noted that these scenes were also a form of storytelling that conveys the complexity of queer experiences, portraying them with nuance rather than fetishisation or sensationalism. The film, set against the backdrop of 1997’s social attitudes, poignantly captures the difficult realities of gay life in an era rife with fear and repression. Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/entertainment/russell-tovey-lgbt-community-should-prepare-ourselves-for-reform-government-3OCQWIAQCZO4FGRXQ2D6MALWAM/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.attitude.co.uk/culture/attitude-awards-2025-russell-tovey-man-of-the-year-498318/> - In an interview with Attitude magazine, Russell Tovey discusses his role in the film 'Plainclothes', set in 1997, portraying Andrew, a closeted gay man targeted by an undercover police officer. Tovey reflects on the themes of shame and self-policing, drawing parallels to his own experiences growing up gay in the 1980s and 1990s. He emphasises the importance of queer visibility and the need for the community to be prepared to fight back against potential political regressions, referencing historical events like Section 28 and ongoing challenges faced by the LGBT+ community.
3. <https://www.metroweekly.com/2025/10/russell-tovey-plainclothes-interview/> - Russell Tovey discusses his role in the film 'Plainclothes', where he plays Andrew, a closeted family man in 1997. He shares insights into the character's internal struggles with shame and conformity, drawing from his own experiences growing up gay. Tovey also talks about the importance of queer visibility in today's climate and his commitment to portraying diverse queer characters, highlighting the significance of telling these stories to move the dial forward and explore personal aspects of himself through his roles.
4. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/10/06/plainclothes-russell-tovey-tells-pedro-pascal-that-vers-is-best-in-spicy-interview/> - In a candid interview with Pedro Pascal for Man About Town, Russell Tovey discusses themes of shame and sexuality in his role as Andrew in 'Plainclothes'. He reflects on the inherent shame he experienced growing up gay and how his character embodies this while being highly functional. Tovey also shares his approach to depicting safe sexual encounters in the film, aiming to provide a positive and clear experience for Lucas, portrayed by Tom Blyth, and expresses a desire for his first experiences to have been with someone like Andrew.
5. <https://www.attitude.co.uk/culture/film-tv/russell-tovey-tom-blyth-sex-scenes-478486/> - Russell Tovey discusses the 'graphic' sex scenes in his upcoming film 'Plainclothes', describing them as 'choreography' that is 'poetic' and 'beautifully filmed'. He highlights the trust and commitment required between him and co-star Tom Blyth to create the dynamic between their characters. Tovey also reflects on the importance of portraying such intimate scenes authentically and the responsibility of actors to ensure safety and clarity during the process, noting the evolution of intimacy coordination in the industry.
6. <https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/story/in-plainclothes-russell-tovey-exorcises-old-demons> - Russell Tovey reflects on his role in 'Plainclothes', portraying a closeted man filled with shame, drawing parallels to his own experiences growing up gay. He discusses the challenges of playing such characters and the catharsis involved in exorcising old demons through these roles. Tovey also talks about the importance of queer representation in media and his commitment to portraying diverse queer characters, expressing a desire to continue telling these stories to connect with audiences and move the dial forward.