

Johan Lundin and Keenan Allen about A talk about Roles in a Setting (2015)

Keenan Allen: I study and I also work with international migration so my interest is primarily about who belongs and who doesn't belong? This idea of space, and how a person can feel displaced. What does a person do with those emotions, and how does a person redirect oneself, when one may feel displaced.

Keenan Allen: A lot of what I am thinking about every day is how my self, being an american living in Sweden, how do I define myself in Sweden? What is my purpose, what is my idea here. And I have to be really careful to not fall into the categories that are already prescribed to me. And I think in your performance, you really pinpointed a lot of what I think about.

Johan Lundin: What my main experience is coming from is talking about gender questions and sexuality questions.. and your main background issues are more related to race, or culture, is that... what do you think?

Keenan Allen: I think my background is more related to difference, inclusion and exclusion. who's allowed who's not allowed?

and earlier when we talked i spoke to you about being allowed to take up a space, being allowed to be exactly who you are, in that space, and that being accepted. as simple as that. So when I think about it in terms of migration, if you think about a country that is traditionally homogenous. And then it begins to adopt people who aren't traditionally from that country. Then you raise the question of difference, and what is okay and what is not okay. And the standard is

challenged. The standard is, it becomes something else actually. And yes, it does involve race, it

does involve culture, it does involve gender as well. And even living in america, I'm often challenged with the same ideas, anywhere you go you will be challenged with these same ideas. But what I liked with your performance, in the end you said that its really like our responsibility to determine what the standard is gonna be. So why do we operate in this political or this structural kind of *thing* that make us feel that its concrete when actually its a type of human emotion that many people can relate to from many different backgrounds actually.

Keenan Allen: But I have to say also, that in the performance that you had: I was inspired, and also a bit envious. That in this moment you were allowed to do what you wanted, you enforce your own beliefs and ideas. And I think that what you did was something that the common individual would like to do on a daily basis, to just be allowed to be oneself. enforce oneself and not have to limit oneself or, water it down in a way that people can understand or that it fits within these standards and so on.