

2-Spirit or Not to Spirit.... It's not even a question

"Queer" and the identity categories of LGBTQ are a European, Western construct and concept based on sexual preference and Gender Identity. I am 2-Spirited. This is an Aboriginal concept 10's of thousands of years old based on spirit within an Indigenous world view. I am also Cree which has 7 genders in our culture.... Therefore, I am confused about how to speak about "Queer" Theatre over the past two decades.

I also don't understand the term "Queer Theatre". Does that mean it is created by "Queer" artists? Theatre about being "Queer"? Or theatre about being "Queer" by "Queer" artists?

Since I am the Indigenous voice on this roundtable, do I speak about the 2-spirited theatre artists that are only creating "Queer" stories? Or do I discuss the 2-spirited artists doing theatre?

The distinction must be made however that 2-spirited people must always be contextualized within an Aboriginal framework. To put 2-spirited people within an LGBTQ framework is trying to fit a traditional Aboriginal concept within a Christian-ized, European framework based on sexual preference and gender identity. Being 2-spirited has nothing to do with sexual preference or gender identity even though some of us do identify as being "Queer".