

Minh Ly's statement for **Roundtable 10: Queer Theatre & Performance 2 Cum:**

To me queer means something outside of the norm. Something outside of what people are used to seeing. Being an artist of Asian descent, simply because of the colour of my skin, I've felt that I've been going against the grain even before I came out as a gay man. My father sat me down one day to tell me that I am Asian, and probably won't succeed in the arts in North America because I'm not white. I was queer before I was gay; I was simply different. Today, queer to me goes hand in hand with diversity in theatre. A racially diverse family onstage is not the norm. A disabled person onstage is not the norm. A deaf actor onstage is not the norm. All that is queer theatre...all that is queer theatre to come. I hope and believe that the young generation of theatre artists is creating theatre that will engage our audiences...entertain them, surprise them, reflect them and include them.