

GENDER SENDER PODCAST 17.01.2020 with Mathilde Manon

Katinka: We are Kai and Katinka [ding!] and this is Gender [swoosh] Sender. Gender Sender is part of the anti discrimination project Trans* [swoosh] Visible, from Trans inter queer [ding!] e.V. funded by Demokratie Leben! federal program of the Ministry for Family Affairs, [ding!] Senior Citizens, [swoosh] Women and Youth. Kai, could you turn off your ringer?

Kai: Hold on a sec, I'm just trying to send this gender. [Ding!]

Katinka: Gender Sender is a storytelling podcast that explores the ways gender norms affect all of us.

Kai: Stories that are personal, political and from the heart. [Ding!]
Our storyteller for this podcast is Mathilde Manon. By telling us her version of a well known tale, Mathilde brings us into a relaxed journey from deep in the ocean towards the tops of the mountains. This story was originally part of a longer performance by Regina Rossi called two lips. Two lips was first performed in hamburg kampnagel, it is a performative installation around the representation of vulvas in myths, legends and history. If you're interested to know more you can see the trailer on Regina Rossi's website. This story was recorded live in Berlin.

Applause

Mathilde: Once upon a time, deep in the Pacific Ocean there was an old abandoned and rusted boat. And the girl who was living in that boat, she had amazing hair, very long hair, very beautiful. And she had these eyes that I don't remember exactly the colour. I remember having watched into her eyes and I could see her soul through her eyes. And the skin of her belly, she had this very generous belly. Her skin was so soft. And she had a cute piercing at her belly button. It was like a blueish, greenish, greyish very shiny very pretty colour and it was matching the scales of her fishtail.

I think she was really hot. Yeah, I know that is personal. Well, however. She had this thing when the full moon shines, she couldn't sleep. And she used to go to the beach in a place that was kind of hidden and very well protected by rocks. And there she had a piece of mirror and with the light of the moonshine, she is spending time enjoying, watching her beautiful body. She was great at taking care of her body. And she she enjoyed it a lot. She liked it a lot, actually. Especially when she was alone. And you know, living as a girl with the fishes. It is not every day fun and easy. The fishes, you know, they would behave just like humans. They would give her weird looks, make comments about her. Tell her that she doesn't belong there, because she not like whatever - and even worth stuff. But yeah I am not going to develop that today. She doesn't want to stay there. Actually, she wants to leave.

She has this dream. She would like so much to live on top of the mountains. Yeah the mountains. Being near the sky with the clouds and the birds and alone. Well she is not really able to, right? She needs to be able to walk. She wants to be autonomous. She is not gonna order food every time she wants to eat. She needs legs. Yeah. Maybe any one of you have a solution for that? Maybe a tiny idea, that could help her? No, nobody? You don't know your classics?

Okay, Ursula. Ursula. Anybody have heard about Ursula? Everybody? I am just going to...maybe some of people are shy....Ursula is a well known witch who used to do deals with mermaids, since centuries. No. Really, mermaids are used to it. It is not a new thing. So they would go to Ursula. And Ursula would give them legs instead of fishtails. And the price for that is that they get their tongue cut off. So that they can't speak anymore. Legs against voice, basically. Yeah and then if they achieve to seduce a prince for 3 years long, with out talking, they get their tongue back. And if they don't achieve that they just vanish in the sea forever. Because they don't deserve to be.

But our beautiful Ariel, doesn't give a shit about that. She is like, you know, what about spending all the rest of my life down here with the fishes. Or three years long with the birds alone on top of the mountains. She is not even questioning that. She is just getting her shit together.

She goes to see the witch. She makes an appointment with her. She goes to see three different psychiatrists. Yes, in order to get three different *Gutachten*. She goes through all the procedure in order to get the Krankenkasse to pay for that. Then she waits her turn on the very long waiting list. And here we are three years later. And you know what, actually, it was not even that painful. It went all very good. Well of course she needs like to take some time, get used to it, to learn how to walk and shit. Now it has been not even a year. 9 months or something. She is living in the mountains alone. She found a tiny house in a very beautiful valley. She is alone in this valley and she is in the south side. So she has the sunshine in the morning. And there is a nice river so she has water and everything she needs. Yeah and when the full moon shines, she goes into the peak of the mountain just behind her house. And from there she can see all the valley. She spends her full moon night alone there, enjoying her body with herself. And I don't know if you might be into hiking trips or into mountains, or maybe you just find her on twitter or something. But if by any chance or by any way you meet her. You know you don't have to ask her any question or try to help her. She is doing great.

Applause

Katinka: That was a beautiful story.

Kai: Yes it was. And you can listen to the rest of the podcasts and also see media from last five years from the Gender Sender on our website.

Katinka: www.gendersender.org

Kai and Katinka: Bye