

# Juan Nunez University of Texas at Austin\_Done\_Dramatic

Mon, 3/2 11:44AM 9:37

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, queer, performance, actor, ankles, donnie darko, wanted, identities, push, victim, human condition, character, traumatized, performed, order, play, straight, gender norms, judith butler, unimportant

## SPEAKERS

Juan Nunez

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J Juan Nunez 00:09  
Julius

J Juan Nunez 00:12  
I can't stay.

J Juan Nunez 00:15  
not even for the man I love.

J Juan Nunez 00:18  
I'm putting my foot down and I'm learning to say no.

J Juan Nunez 00:28  
Learning to say no. Can I start over?

J Juan Nunez 00:40  
Shit, don't- don't answer that. That's like, the worst thing you can do.

J Juan Nunez 00:46

Juan Nunez 00:10  
I was told I can do anything I wanted to and I've always really liked- it's the the climactic speech from 1947's 'Such as What a Lady is to Feel Like'.

J Juan Nunez 01:02  
Was it too gay?

J Juan Nunez 01:04  
Okay, cool. Just tell me what you want me to do and I'll do it. That's the type of actor I am. Is this better?

J Juan Nunez 01:14  
Okay, cool. What else?

J Juan Nunez 01:21  
Just be myself?

J Juan Nunez 01:24  
Um. Okay!

J Juan Nunez 01:30  
Gender troubles: Feminism and the Subversions of Identity. Judith Butler claims gender norms are not innate, but rather a sort of invitation that is constantly reiterated or performed. As a response, philosopher Richard Braille applies this theory to sexual orientation, explaining, even when we are accepted the ways in which queer people embody and present our identities isn't seen as natural, but rather a sort of performance. Therefore, whenever queer actors choose to play queer characters, we must overlay our identities in order to still impress straight audiences, and a dramatic performance must become a recollection of trauma. Playwright Donnie Darko explores this limit through a gay actor in an audition, blurring the line between performer and performance in order to highlight a normal ultra familiar for queer people in this activity. For years, I have received ballots telling me it's lazy for me to play gay characters, including one for this performance. Telling me if you're going to do an LGBT piece, you just have to push yourself more than you should because our cause has only mattered as much as we have suffered for them and how much we're willing to prevent suffering.

J Juan Nunez 02:46  
Crisis Actor, by Donnie Darko

J Juan Nunez 02:52  
It's stupid

J Juan Nunez 02:56  
I wanted to become an actor to like you know, conceal myself not not to reveal these secret truths about the human condition.

J Juan Nunez 03:07  
Like, you know, like a prettier picture of the mess I've been handed

J Juan Nunez 03:11  
or if not a pretty picture then at least the funny one.

J Juan Nunez 03:17  
or If not a funny one that at least an interesting one.

J Juan Nunez 03:21  
I mean, I've done, um,

J Juan Nunez 03:24  
gay body. gay victim

J Juan Nunez 03:27  
gay son, gay victim, gay neighbor, gay victim, gay victim, gay victim...

J Juan Nunez 03:36  
I tried to do straight once. And I literally got this comment that was like, I hate to be the one to tell you this but your ankles read a bit too

J Juan Nunez 03:46  
gay for this character.

J Juan Nunez 03:49  
Yeah,

J Juan Nunez 03:50  
no, yeah, they were like,

J Juan Nunez 03:52  
like, like you have gay ankles and a rather flamboyant arm, and I was like, oh my god,

J Juan Nunez 04:01  
you don't like my ankles, I

J Juan Nunez 04:02  
get it, this doesn't have to turn into a hate crime.

J Juan Nunez 04:08  
Okay not really any time but

J Juan Nunez 04:12  
oh my god whatever I can joke about that.

J Juan Nunez 04:19  
I don't know, I mean

J Juan Nunez 04:23  
personal experience

J Juan Nunez 04:35  
Is that what you want to hear?

J Juan Nunez 04:48  
Yeah! Sure!

J Juan Nunez 04:56  
I was

J Juan Nunez 05:01  
I'm sorry, um,

J Juan Nunez 05:08  
I was walking home from a night out and I heard laughter

J Juan Nunez 05:16  
men's laughter mixed with

J Juan Nunez 05:21  
shouting

J Juan Nunez 05:25  
and yelling, then

J Juan Nunez 05:34  
I remember my face on the floor.

J Juan Nunez 05:40  
Then a boot just

J Juan Nunez 05:46  
kicking

J Juan Nunez 05:56  
I wanted to die.

J Juan Nunez 05:57  
I thought it'd be easier to

J Juan Nunez 06:08  
their eyes were so far away

J Juan Nunez 06:12  
and so...

J Juan Nunez 06:26  
Push myself more?

J Juan Nunez 06:38  
That actually happened.

J Juan Nunez 06:44  
Unimportant?

J Juan Nunez 06:48  
You want to see it? Look, I don't know if...

J Juan Nunez 07:54  
(crying) (fighting) This is not okay

J Juan Nunez 07:59  
That's unimportant?

J Juan Nunez 08:03  
my whole life I have never been able to tell what's gay and what isn't more than I can distinguish a part of my body

J Juan Nunez 08:10  
and that table. It's you.

J Juan Nunez 08:14  
You shame my people. Straight white people are the only ones that want to see this shit performed because to you it's either only a performance, or you

J Juan Nunez 08:23  
are the ones doing it. You're the ones terrorizing gay people, brown people, anything that makes you nervous. The rest of us already know what it's like to walk around feeling traumatized,

J Juan Nunez 08:34  
theoretically and actually, and you're the ones that get to profit. And we're the ones that have to pay, and scream, and

J Juan Nunez 08:42  
cry and I am tired of having to play a fucking character so that you will listen to me. I am more than this shit! I am a fucking human being! Was that better?

J Juan Nunez 09:00  
I just figured that was the type of gay you wanted to see?

J Juan Nunez 09:07  
You know the angry one

J Juan Nunez 09:10  
Everyone just always says, How much more fun he is.

J Juan Nunez 09:16



Juan Nunez 09:16

Do you need anything else?



Juan Nunez 09:19

Okay, well. You have my info, so



Juan Nunez 09:24

thank you for all of your time and transparency today. Those things mean a lot to me.