

Marissa Wong : Departure Audio

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Marissa Wong 0:01

I feel like you confront loneliness on stage too. Because it's just you. And then all the emotions that come up with that. On top of the rigor and the physical exhaustion

Unknown Speaker 0:20

It's emotional.

Marissa Wong 0:21

It's emotional. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 0:29

Does it change if there's an audience?

Marissa Wong 0:33

It definitely would change if there's an audience. It feels like you have to perform or get it right. But then being here, right now in this empty space, I'm not really trying to prove anything. And I have to—and I may be proving to myself, so it is just me, you know? With people observing, they hold you accountable in a way too.

Unknown Speaker 1:12

Did you do this piece a long time ago?

Unknown Speaker 1:14

Yeah, I did it, it was supposed to premiere this past May. The whole thing. But it got postponed because of COVID. And then it was in the creation phase a year before that. So 2019, almost. So it's changed a lot, since I've changed in the past almost two years when it will premiere in May 2021 now. And it originally was heavily based on a sexual assault experience that I had had. And pulling from that trauma. But I feel that oftentimes I see people of color, but also marginalized groups having to perform or demonstrate their trauma on stage or in film, you may see that too. And I'm trying to— As I shifted and changed and moved away, and in a way transformed from that trauma. And it still sits with me, I attach myself to it differently. And it changes. So it's no longer just that trauma, I'm learning that a lot of these experiences that I've had growing up, have really made me who I am. And I latch on to certain ones or identify with certain ones and then go, "That's me." Not realizing that the full experience of it has really created this version of myself, who I am today. So yeah, it's mostly about, I guess, all experiences now. And the patterns we have.

Unknown Speaker 3:07

It's funny how you created something and it just changes.

Marissa Wong 3:11

Yeah. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 3:16

If you ask me, "What's your favorite movie?". It's not going to be the same one five years ago. Everybody changes the perspective of everything.

Unknown Speaker 3:28

Yeah, change and perspective and experience. And time passing, too. I think I'm also just allowing myself to be messier these days, and not having to be so having it all together. And I think that also this is what the Solo is about is watching this messiness sort of this life that I inevitably can't. I can't avoid it happening.

Unknown Speaker 4:01

Yeah, I think a lot of people can read that reality after COVID. Because it's like, there's stuff that you can't control, you know?

Marissa Wong 4:09

Yeah. And I think COVID brought up a lot of emotions for people. And as this piece has almost survived or endured COVID, it's heavily impacted on that.

Unknown Speaker 4:23

It's like, Yeah, okay. I'm just like a grain in the world so whatever I do and keep it together. It really doesn't matter.

Marissa Wong 4:35

And when everyone was impacted too and all of our veils came off, and it was just okay, well, here's who we are. And I'm scared and I don't know. You know, no matter what, class or region or... I think that was the craziest part is that obviously, it impacted some people more than others and in varying degrees, but it did have an impact— Or people just had to reevaluate I think as a whole.