

excessiveness and exaggerated public performance on the *Springer* useful as a form of resistance? Mary Russo explains:

The extreme difficulty of producing lasting social change does not diminish the usefulness of these symbolic models of transgression, and the histories of the subaltern and counter-productive cultural activity are never as neatly closed as the structural model might suggest. (58)

Nothing on *Springer* is neatly closed. *Springer* blurs the boundaries between the real and the unreal, and the private and the public. I would argue that the more these boundaries become troubled the more the performativity is pronounced, this allows, "...in liminal states ... the temporary loss of boundaries to redefine social frames" (Russo 58).

Most criticisms of the *Jerry Springer Show* revolve around its seditious elements and undesirable guests, disrupting the order of normalcy in western culture. *Springer* makes queer culture hyper-visible, allowing those who are silenced in other areas of life, a chance to perform. This especially rings true for those expressing desires and identities that veer away from the norm. When making queries into why these images seem to disturb, or signal a threat to conservative regimes, I wonder if Jerry Springer is correct when he states that he might bring down "western civilization." We will have to wait and see. I believe it would be incorrect to categorize the activities on the *Jerry Springer Show* as sub-cultural phenomena. Perhaps if we look hard enough we will recognize the other public performances of queer in our neighborhoods, in our families, in ourselves and in the lives of our politicians (does anyone remember Clinton, Tripp, or Margaret Trudeau?). What might happen if we expressed our queer desires? Why do we want to believe that "normal"

is normal? The questions are limitless, and so are the possibilities.

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Long After

I remember the night we almost kissed,
in the women's washroom of a restaurant
in a suburban Ottawa mall

Waiting in line, both gently drunk,
you leaned close in the tight space,
hand pressed against the cool tile wall above my shoulder,
not quite touching, breath and eyes meeting,
you said you would miss me.
I was leaving the place we had fled to together.

Then you shifted forward, ever so slightly, into the kiss you
never took,
which waited for you on my lips
long after that moment.

Cheryl Dobinson holds an M.A. in Sociology from York University and her studies have focused on women, youth, and sexuality. Her work has been published in Fireweed, Herizons, and The Journal of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity.