TransFigures Poster Project

D'Lo
Queer Transgender Tamil–Sri Lankan American Artist

Framing **D'Lo's** political consciousness is that his earliest memories are of himself as a boy. D'Lo says, "The truth of living in a woman's body only became painfully evident when I started puberty. I already felt the injustice in the silence I had to keep, even if I didn't know how to put it into words."

But he grew up, learned language and how to speak up and out. "And today," says D'Lo, "as a trans person of color, I am understanding my privilege. I am educated, yes. But that's not the real privilege. I have something that my immigrant parents never had, or that many of your parents never had regardless of color or immigrant status. I have something called processing power."

"My parents' coping mechanism to get them through the day to day in Sri Lanka and in America was to never talk about #!%* that was bothering them. To never share their inner most fears, insecurities, etc. Generation after generation, they generated a factory of silence, not realizing the silence became powerful in all the wrong ways. Loved ones walked into the doors of this factory after being sexually violated and never came back out. Other family members came in carrying their load of queerness and also never came back.

"I stopped walking past that factory. I became loud, by accident. And my truth has been to reveal, not to conceal. Asking people to see me, really see me, cuz I failed to believe I was the only one feeling this way, thinking this way, QT and all."

Learn more about D'Lo's performances, writings, and collaborations at **www.dlocokid.com**.