

## “Getting Serial with Bover\_frau and Friend\_s”

The interactive performance consisted of two different layers: an audio-track and an open performative discussion. Equipped with an mp3-player, the audience members -one by one- stepped into the first room. The screen of the TV in front of them asked to use the remote control to scroll through the menu. In this menu, you were asked to start your mp3-player and step into the next room. In this room, there is another TV in front of a couch where I, on the audio track, asked to take a seat. On TV, there was an endless loop of *The Soprano's* DVD menu - muted. The sound of the menu and all other sounds were recorded on the audio track. I then presented the basic set-up of *The Sopranos*, discussing different characters, to give the audience - especially people without much viewing experience - an impression of the show. I then asked them to take a look behind the TV where I presented my whole DVD series collection, giving short sum-ups of the different shows. Finally, I asked to step into an elevator that was equipped with another couch. On the ride to the basement level, a female voice, the voice of my co-performer Lisa-Marie Radtke, appeared on the audio-track. We invited the audience to take part in our girls' TV evening. On the basement level, the audience stepped into our living room, taking a seat on yet another couch.

The audio track continued and over the course of 20 minutes you could hear our very informal discussion of different TV shows with regards to female leads, strong female characters, and heroines.

On the performative side, we were watching TV shows together with the audience. The audience members could choose the room's light color as well as the shows they wanted to watch. Us performers were constantly Bechdel-testing the shows. The criteria for the Bechdel tests was also decided upon by the audience. More and more rules were set up and pinned to the wall so that everyone could see them. If there were scenes with only female characters, we would blow up a balloon. If the show was written by a woman, we would make popcorn. Homonormative contents would ask for a little dance, and so forth. Every action was discussed upon by everyone in the room. This way, we wanted to add a discursive layer to the given assumptions and positions on our audio track. After 25 minutes people were asked to leave the room, but many audience members returned to keep on watching and talking.

Similar to the class, we mainly watched HBO series like *Breaking Bad*, *The Sopranos*, *Sex and the City*, or *Six Feet Under*, but also *Queer as Folk*.

To me, the performance was more about getting into discussions and reflections with the audience than criticizing certain shows or transporting expert insight. I felt that because of the fun atmosphere with popcorn and drinks, people felt very open to talk about their viewing habits and opinions about the gendering of/in TV shows.