

Monologue 4: Demonstrating Physical Versatility

(standing with legs spread wide) My mom used to hate when I would stand like this. She said it was like I was asserting my dominance or something. And I was always like, "What dominance?" She'd go on and on about something about taking up too much space or something like that. The truth is that I was just more comfortable this way, but she said something about my innate desire to be more important than other people, blah, blah, blah.

(straightens up tightly) So then I started standing like this. She hated it. She said I looked like a frightened soldier who just saw a general walk by. I asked her if she caught the humor in that analogy and then called her "general." She didn't like that. I wasn't supposed to stand like this (legs spread wide) or like this (straightens up tightly). I decided to stand like this (tree pose – one foot placed on inner thigh of other foot) and she lost her mind. She said it was cultural appropriation because it's like a yoga pose and yoga isn't part of my culture.

I asked her what kind of standing was part of our culture. She had to think about that for a while. While she was thinking I kept changing my standing position (changes position several times) and she kept getting more and more annoyed. When I did a headstand, she just about lost her mind. She crossed her arms and stood like this (original pose with legs wide) and started lecturing me. I tried not to laugh but couldn't help it. She yelled out, "What is so funny?" and I pointed at her legs and asked her if she was asserting her dominance. Without thinking, she said, "Well, maybe I am!" We both got a good laugh about it, and now whenever I have a conversation with my mom I just stand like this. (strange, silly stance)