

Monologue by Roberta D'Alois

JOHN, (formerly DUONG) M, 28, an ethnic Chinese man raised in Vietnam.

At Rise: JOHN is giving a pedicure to Hillary Clinton in her hotel room in Philadelphia the night before the Democratic convention of 2016.

JOHN

Movies. I love movies. Any movies. "Bond, James Bond!" Even at home, we saw James Bond. Bad TV, crooked antenna, orange faces. He was a ...daredevil. I liked learning words. Daredevil. But I never look back. Came to America, I had no money, no clothes, my uncle's phone number. When I came, he let me stay one week, two weeks, then he said "go." My cousin, he does nails - DID nails. Used to do. My cousin, he said, you can come with me. So I learn to do nails, hair, massage, makeup, everything. Now I work at the hotel, nice hotel, nice people, not so ...backbreaking, not as many clients, nice clients.. You know how many mani pedi's I do a day? 30, boom boom boom,. Now I'm always happy. I have a great life. I LOVE it, I talk to customers, they talk, I talk. I love it here, I hope I die here. Not soon. You want a massage too?