

***Brown University Men's Story Project: Looking Within, Speaking Out***

**March 23, 2016**

**Selected quotes from audience feedback forms**

**Overall, what are your thoughts on the production?**

Stellar. We really needed a space for these voices to be heard.

It is amazing – keep it going.

WOW. So appreciated the courage and vulnerability.

It was phenomenal and necessary.

I thought it was really awesome. Every piece had a unique voice that resonated in a kind of universal way, while being very personal.

The production was thought-provoking and inspiring.

I thought it was really interesting to hear everyone's stories, and I liked that it included people from all walks of life.

Absolutely fantastic, mesmerizing, super powerful.

Fantastic, heartfelt, thoughtful.

It was good.

So good! I liked the variety of speakers.

Pretty brilliant – as far as I could tell it seemed really representative of different identities and I really appreciate that.

**Loved it.**

Excellent, inclusive, and well-needed.

A great way to open broader dialogue about masculinity.

So good! So many great stories and fantastic perspective.

Great show. Nice pieces.

Excellent.

I found it very helpful and powerful to hear the stories.

Amazing. Appreciated hearing stories of people coming to grips with their masculinity.

I loved it! I learned so much.

Amazing! Eye opening.

It was amazing. There was a large/vast representation, and that was amazing.

Phenomenal. A great variety of powerful stories.

This was one of my most moving experiences at Brown.

My thoughts are thank you.

Amazing.

Open, honest, refreshing, powerful. Grateful to hear these narratives.

I am so grateful these stories are being told and this subject is being explored.

Awesome, powerful, important!

It was really good, very eye opening.

Powerful!

Extremely well done and eye-opening.

It was great, and I loved the diversity of the performances. Very cathartic.

Incredible, thought-provoking

Learned a lot. Appreciated the honesty.

I loved it. I thought it was incredibly powerful, insightful, and full of life.

**What, if anything, do you feel you gained or learned from it?**

A humanized, not intellectualized perspective on masculinity and gender.

That people don't have to be alone.

A sense of community I never expected to find. Finding out that I was far more similar to the people I felt excluded from than I'd ever know. Positive representations of masculinity that are so severely lacking. A space for men to share the messages they've learned not to share.

It was reaffirming in many ways to hear so many stories about how it is OK to not fit 100% into norms of masculinity.

A connection with these people on stage, with lives both very similar and very different from mine.

This was an incredible forum! The amazing power of stories was certainly represented here.

I learned more about gender identity, and how fluid that can be, and I learned more about what it means to be a man, and not the type of man that society has created.

Hearing incredibly well-spoken expressions of a wide range of perspectives.

Exposure to the spectrum of masculinity, insight into personal suffering of masc.

The constantly-needed reminder that everyone has a background story that the rest of us do not necessarily know.

I gained more insight into the range of how masculinity performs itself.

I have barely ever seen trans people discussing trans identity, so it was very interesting to see different facets of that.

I think I understand my male friends and my father somewhat more.

Masculinity from a different perspective. As a cis female, this was really eye opening.

Loved hearing about masculinity from the perspective of people of different gender identities.

MEN HAS FEELS. *(followed by drawing of a heart)*

A more personal encounter with the experience behind the theory.

Glad there is a group like this in Brown.

Perspectives on varied experiences with masculinity.

To know more of the struggle that people have had in their lives in the past.

Different perspectives.

So much - but have to process.

Power of this forum for mixed groups to connect.

Different expressions of masculinity.

Alternative experiences.

I think this demonstrated some of the various ways that masculinity manifests and affects different people... It reminded me to be more consciously aware of masculinity in my everyday life and to listen and talk to others.

I learned diverse stories and lessons people have learned. Everyone deals with things differently.

That masculinity has all different types of forms. That I, as a female identifying person, have a lot to think about.

To broaden the horizons of my perspective on masculinity and gender more generally.

I feel as though, as a woman, I was able to feel hope for these discussions.

Masculinity / confronting masculinity is an extremely nuanced and individual process.

It was such a privilege to hear trans and non-binary voices. Also voices from older generations.

Another side to gender narratives.

I learned a lot about masculinity.

More about gender fluidity.

I feel that I gained a much more nuanced understanding of masculinity.

More self-reflective

That masculinity means many things.

**What, if anything, did you appreciate or find effective about it?**

All of it - the variety of stories and mediums to communicate them, and the general vulnerability and humanity of it all.

The rawness in the performers. This could have been a lecture, but the storytelling of real lives and experiences was refreshingly brutal.

It was diverse, inclusive, accessible, and enjoyable on top of being enlightening.

This was a supremely supportive space that allowed for people to be heard.

I appreciated the honesty and raw emotion everyone conveyed in their stories.

Hearing people express their emotions helped me feel empathy and understand better.

Each piece was well thought-out, cohesive, and expressed with emotion and sincerity.

Quality of stories/ storytelling.

The humanness of it all, vulnerability.

I appreciated the trans representation.

It was cool to see the men's lacrosse team there.

I appreciated the spoken word elements and the raw honesty.

Personal stories are a very effective, powerful means of teaching.

I really appreciated the variety of different stories. It was really beautiful to hear.

I loved the format of the spoken word presentation.

Different, inclusive experiences, unashamedly produced and displayed.

Diverse messages.

The plurality of backgrounds of experiences that helped frame the reach of positive masculinities.

The format was perfect. Stories are the most powerful.

Depth of emotion / bravery of participants

The range of speakers and the candor and honesty of the stories.

Personal, diverse, instructive.

The personal interaction.

Appreciated candor.

It was very compelling/ emotional and vulnerable – a lot of things that masculinity typically isn't.

The use of personal stories as a vehicle to talk about gender.

The range of experiences and stories.

The stories!!

The personal intimacy of stories.

Diverse storytellers.

I found the speeches most affective.

The diversity and sensitivity of the pieces.

The variety of different pieces

I appreciated the host and the raw content.

The way the sound echoed through the theater when powerful performances were given.

The variety of pieces

The power of spoken word.

A variety of representation of ages, gender identities, race, and stories.

**Any additional comments or feedback you'd like to give?**

Thank you for putting this together. This project meant the world to me.

So So good and important

Made me cry 😊

More masculine audience!!

Justice is everything.

It would also be really interesting to hear stories about the intersection of fraternities/frat culture and masculinity.

Thanks so much for putting this on!

Love to hear from mothers and fathers about raising boys.

I loved it! Thank you all for your stories!

You are all amazing (*heart drawn around 'amazing'*)

Thank you!

Very important work! Congrats to everyone who put in the work to make this happen!

Great idea and execution.