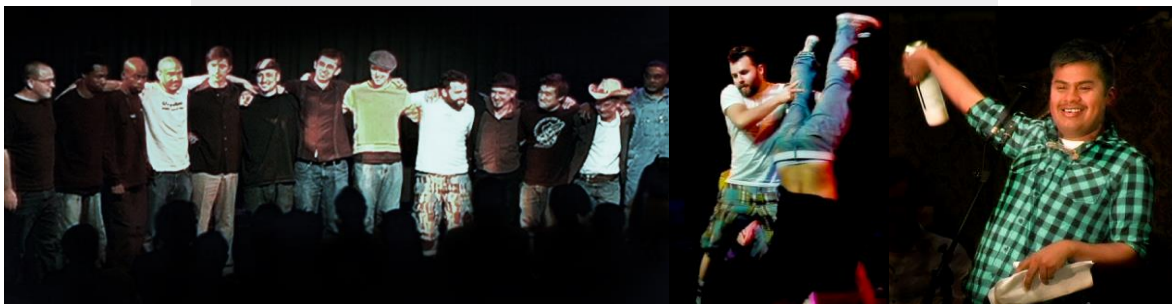


THE MEN'S STORY PROJECT

building strength, creating peace



MSP RESOURCES, PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING

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THE MEN'S STORY PROJECT

Building Strength, Creating Peace

The Challenge: Around the world, social norms regarding what it means to "be a man" contribute to many health and justice problems - including men's violence against women, violence between men, homo/transphobia, bullying, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, men's lower rates of healthcare use, and gender inequality. On the positive front, research has found that working to shift gender norms in support of healthy masculinities is a productive and needed approach to improving well-being for all people.

Given these facts, it's notable that there are few mainstream, public forums where impacts of dominant masculinity norms are critically discussed, and where healthy forms of men's human expression are highlighted and supported. We need widespread transformations in male gender norms, so as to improve well-being for all people.

The Men's Story Project (MSP) was initiated by Dr. Jocelyn Lehrer in 2008 to help fill this gap. The core of our work is a scalable, research-based approach to creating live testimonial-sharing events, films and other media in which boys, men, and folks who identify in any way with masculinity publicly explore social ideas about masculinity through the lens of their own experience. MSP initiatives can be stand-alone, supplemented with community engagement campaigns, and incorporated into broader education programs. MSP Collectives can form around this work. As a movement-building initiative, the MSP helps groups "crowdsource culture change" in social ideas about masculinity, in locally-led ways, through men's less-often-heard voices and stories.

In each MSP production, diverse men share personal stories with an audience - with unusual candor - on topics including family relationships; men's violence against women, violence between men; sexuality; gender identity; bullying; homo/transphobia; HIV/AIDS; personal transformations; and intersections with factors including race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status and religion. The stories collectively celebrate men's humanity and note costs of stereotypical/dominant notions of manhood for the presenters and people of all genders around them. Multiple mediums can be used (e.g., prose, monologues, comedy, slam poetry, dance); the events are followed by audience discussion and a community resource/action fair. MSP presenters have included celebrities, other opinion leaders, students, activists, and men who had never previously been on a stage.

Our testimonial-based approach to creating live productions and films is rooted in public health research and intended for implementation/evaluation by campuses, NGOs and other groups. A training guide, license, training and consulting are available. The MSP website and YouTube Channel highlight local initiatives. We hope the MSP will spread widely, highlighting an international emergence of men who are helping to transform masculinity norms and gender relations – towards health and justice for all. MSP productions have taken place thus far at UC-Berkeley, UC-San Francisco, La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA), Emory University, University of Oregon, Brown University, and in Santiago, Chile.

MSP Evaluation Findings. A qualitative evaluation study of the MSP, based at UC-San Francisco, is near completion; a poster of this work was presented at the 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium in New Delhi (11/14). The findings show that the MSP's live testimonial-sharing format is feasible and highly acceptable, and fosters positive changes in knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behavior. Key findings for audience members and presenters include:

- A sense of discovery that: a) there's "something to talk about" re: social ideas about masculinity, b) the social construction of masculinity is an issue that "needs" to be addressed, and c) men "need" more spaces like this
- Respect for and unexpected empathy/identification with MSP presenters
- The "humanization" of men with marginalized life experiences (e.g., gay, transgender and disabled men)
- Reduction of respondents' homo/transphobia and amelioration of stereotypes related to race/ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, physical disability and other issues
- Awareness of and reductions in gender norm-enforcing behavior
- Experiences of affirmation, healing and empowerment (e.g., some male audience members noted that this was the first time they had heard other men discuss personal challenges similar to their own)
- An expanded sense of life possibility
- A sense of inspiration to share their own stories and encourage others to do so
- An audience member told a presenter that the MSP led him to realize that he needed help to end his own perpetration of partner violence
- Hundreds of collective hours of post-event discussion with members of their social networks

Additional impacts for MSP presenters include:

- Going from a feeling of victimhood to a feeling of survivorship
- "Generation of meaning" and related healing -- finding redemptive value in seeing that sharing their difficult life experiences (e.g., having witnessed or perpetrated partner violence) could help others learn, heal and change
- One MSP presenter who spoke about his former perpetration of partner violence and violence against other men stated that he felt a sense of public accountability to no longer use violence
- Developing a sense of pride in their story (e.g., testicular cancer survivorship)
- Continued/expanded social engagement regarding gender justice issues. Examples include:
 - The MSP led to the establishment of a campus men's collective that met regularly to discuss the nexus of masculinities, health and justice. Co-led by an MSP presenter at UC-Berkeley.
 - An MSP presenter joined his campus chapter of the National Organization for Women and stated that MSP participation was his entrée into gender justice activism.
 - A presenter shared his MSP piece on NPR and went on to publish a full-length memoir addressing his experience of having witnessed domestic violence in childhood (*Free Spirit*, Hyperion/Hachette).
 - A presenter went on to publish a children's book on divorce and became a public speaker regarding active fatherhood in the context of divorce.
 - Several MSP presenters continued publicly performing their pieces and sharing the MSP film with friends and community members.

Public response and Advisory Council. The MSP's live productions and films have met with an overwhelmingly positive response - including university awards, CNN coverage, sponsorship by Amnesty International, and frequent reference to it with terms such as "revolutionary," "already historic," "transformative," "humanizing," and "something that needs to keep happening." The MSP has drawn a world-class Advisory Council including Jackson Katz; Michael Kimmel; Paul Kivel; Mary Koss; Oswaldo Montoya, Paul Hawken, bestselling author of *Blessed Unrest*; Academy Award-winning director Debra Chasnoff; Frederick Marx, a creator of the film *Hoop Dreams*; and Aqeela Sherrills, a negotiator of the historic Crips-Bloods truce in Los Angeles.

Presentations. Dr. Lehrer has presented on the MSP in many contexts including the UN Commission on the Status of Women Youth Forum, Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, International Conference on Men and Masculinities; 5th International Colloquium on the Study of Men and Masculinities, 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium; 22nd Annual Conference of the American Men's Studies Association; National Conference on Men and Masculinity, UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, Yale Global Health and Innovation Conference, Stanford Storytelling Project, Harvard School of Public Health, Columbia University's School of Social Work and Mailman School of Public Health, and Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality. Dr. Lehrer has led MSP workshops at conferences including the Campus Training Institute held by CALCASA and Dept. of Justice Office of Violence against Women, and National Sexual Assault Conference.

DIRECTOR BIO: Jocelyn Lehrer, Sc.D., is Founder/Director of the Men's Story Project (MSP) and affiliated Senior Research Associate at the University of California-San Francisco Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health and Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies. Her work in public health research, practice and advocacy focuses on the prevention of HIV/STI and gender-based violence (GBV) and the promotion of healthy masculinities and gender equality. Lehrer's research has been published in leading journals including *Pediatrics*, *Archives of Sexual Behavior* and *Journal of Adolescent Health*. Her applied work includes serving as GBV lead on a USAID project to integrate GBV frontline response into the work of HIV organizations in Guyana, consulting with Acumen Fund, Dream Corps and San Francisco Women Against Rape, and facilitating support groups for LGBT youth and women who are living with HIV/AIDS. Lehrer has been certified as a rape crisis counselor and has served as a trainer, educator and facilitator in many contexts.

Lehrer founded the MSP in 2008. She has produced and directed nine live MSP productions and two MSP films in the U.S. and Chile, which have been strongly positively received. Informed by this work, Lehrer helps groups create new live MSP productions (e.g., campus productions, touring groups) and related films, curriculum, community engagement campaigns and ongoing collectives. Lehrer's awards include the UCSF Chancellor's Award for Public Service, and her work has been highlighted internationally in media including CNN, MSNBC, Huffington Post and Forbes.com. Lehrer holds a doctoral degree from the Harvard School of Public Health and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies. Her family is from Chile, and she is a native Spanish speaker.

PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING OFFERED BY DR. LEHRER:

(1) Men's Story Project film screening/discussion (1.5-3 hrs).

Screening of full MSP film or selected clips (English or Spanish), followed by presentation and group discussion on masculinities in relation to issues including men's violence against women, violence between men, men's efforts to be 'men', homo/transphobia, substance abuse, gender equality, and intersections with factors including race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status & religion. (\$2000 East coast; \$2600 West coast)



(2) Experiential workshop on masculinities, health and social justice (4-9 hrs). This in-depth workshop uses MSP film clips as starting points for group discussion on masculinities in relation to issues including men's violence against women, violence between men, men's efforts to be 'men,' homo/transphobia and substance abuse, and intersections with factors including race/ethnicity, class and religion. Didactic content and participatory activities. (\$2300 East coast; \$2900 West coast)

(3) Creative workshop on masculinities, health and social justice (8-12 hrs). This workshop uses MSP film clips as starting points for group discussion on masculinities in relation to key health and justice issues, with attention to intersectionality. It includes didactic content, participatory activities and a substantial creative segment, consisting of: a) guided personal writing/creation, b) small group feedback on pieces in progress, and c) a culminating evening event for the sharing of personal stories, which can be made open to a broader audience. (\$2600 East coast, \$3200 West coast)

(4) Training workshop: Creating Men's Story Project productions (8-9 hrs). This training includes discussion of the nexus of masculinities, health and social justice; MSP pedagogy and how to create effective testimonials; community engagement strategies; working with men who have perpetrated violence; legal issues; and program evaluation. Strategies specific to the implementing group are discussed. Mediums: film clips, writing samples, Powerpoint, discussion. (\$2600 East coast, \$3200 West coast)

(5) MSP Training Package (\$5000 East coast, \$5600 West coast):

- 1) Afternoon/evening presentation on masculinities and the MSP - open to campus/community (1.5-3 hrs).
- 2) Daylong training workshop (8-9 hrs) the next day on how to create effective MSP productions - for implementers
- 3) 2 MSP training guides
- 4) 2 MSP DVDs & public screening license - one copy of each MSP film
- 5) Yearlong MSP license, including presenter legal release form
- 6) 20 consulting hours with Dr. Lehrer as the MSP production is created.

NOTE: Fees are sliding-scale and do not include travel/lodging. Presentations can be tailored for NGOs, fraternities, military/ROTC, athletic teams and other groups. Dr. Lehrer is open to co-facilitating with staff/faculty from your organization/campus. For a lower-cost License Package, see p. 4.

MSP RESOURCE PACKAGE: Training Guide, License, Films & Consulting

For groups interested in creating MSP productions who seek a lower-cost option to the Training Package (p.3), this License Package is available. It includes: **a) Two MSP training guides, b) One-year MSP license, c) the two MSP DVDs** (CA and Chile productions) and **public screening rights**, and **d) fifteen consulting hours** with Dr. Lehrer. The cost of this package is \$1800 (and can be flexible if needed).

MSP Training Guide - This step-by-step 40-page guide discusses the MSP mission, research background and educational approach; curation; working with men to create effective MSP productions; creation of films, curriculum and social media; and legal/ethical issues. It provides example templates including a Call for Submissions, event introduction, press release, audience media release, and feedback forms for audience members and presenters.

The **MSP License** is a legal document that permits groups to use the MSP name, join the MSP network, connect with other MSP groups, and share their work on the MSP website, Facebook page, YouTube channel and other social media. It includes guidelines on ethics, legality and safety, as well as a Presenter Release form - a legal document for MSP presenters that addresses media permission as well as liability issues that can arise when men publicly share personal stories about crimes and other sensitive topics. For a copy of the license, please email lehrer@mensstoryproject.org.

MSP DOCUMENTARY FILMS

1. THE MEN'S STORY PROJECT: BUILDING STRENGTH, CREATING PEACE

English. 114 min. 2009. Directed by Jocelyn Lehrer, Sc.D.



"A film of cultural importance" -*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Deeply funny" -*SF Weekly*

"The Irish poet William Butler Yeats once wrote of a man "who ruffles in a manly pose, for all his timid heart." The Men's Story Project does something truly revolutionary: it allows men a space free of judgment and relentless gender policing, a place where they can finally tell their own stories in an unvarnished way. Enabling men to shed the "manly pose" and expose that "timid heart" may be among the most liberatory experiences of a man's life. Beyond that, the Project promises even more: that once freed, men will continue to seek and speak their truths, joining with women and other men, to effect a transformation of the meaning of masculinity." -**Michael Kimmel**, *Professor of Sociology at SUNY-Stony Brook and author/editor of over 20 books on masculinities*

"It is still relatively rare -- and often startling -- to hear men talk openly and honestly about experiences in our families, struggles (and joys) in relationships, violent victimization or perpetration, or anything else that leaves us feeling vulnerable -- especially in front of

other men. That is why the Men's Story Project film is such an important contribution to the expanding work of engaging men at all levels of gender justice work: it speaks to our hearts as well as our minds, and beautifully brings together the personal and political aspects of these critical issues." -**Jackson Katz**, *educator and author in gender justice and violence prevention*

"The Men's Story Project gathers a wonderful array of men's voices and stories -- deeply moving, at times hilarious, and always thought-provoking. It was a big hit with the students in my college sex and gender course -- they were inspired by the film to think about male privilege and pain, as well as the commonalities and differences among men. And most important, the film provided plenty of grist for us to ask together, 'Just what is a man?'" -**Michael Messner**, *Professor of Sociology & Gender Studies, U. of Southern California*

FILM DESCRIPTION:

Filmed in Berkeley, California with a standing-room-only audience, this film shows the powerful debut presentation of the Men's Story Project -- an arts-based dialogue project exploring social ideas about masculinity. Described by audience members as "groundbreaking," "transformative," "a gift" and "something that needs to keep happening," this bold performance highlights 16 Bay Area artists, activists, and first-time presenters, ages 22-60, sharing stories about their lives through slam poetry, monologues, music and dance.

The stories address impacts of homophobia on friendships between heterosexual men; religion, homophobia and HIV/AIDS; coming out to one's parents; intersections of race, disability and sexuality; testicular cancer and personal wholeness; images of African American masculinity; journeys from partner violence perpetration to anti-violence activism; men's public restroom rituals; spirituality and transformation in prison; transgender identity and gender fluidity; challenging

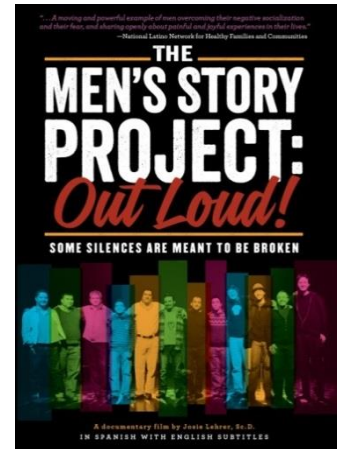
a father's racism; being raised without male role models; desire to be in a committed relationship; gratitude to lifelong mentors; the value of often-undervalued lives; and other subjects. Presenters include Robert Haaland, the first transgender candidate elected to San Francisco public office; Juan Cuba (San Francisco Women Against Rape); Leroy Moore (Sins Invalid); Galen Peterson (United Roots); and members of the Berkeley and SF slam poetry championship teams. 16 chapter selections including 10-min director introduction.

Trailer: www.mensstoryproject.org To purchase, visit: www.DarkHollowFilms.com

2. THE MEN'S STORY PROJECT: OUT LOUD! (PROYECTO HISTORIAS DE HOMBRES: ¡EN VOZ ALTA!)
Spanish with English subtitles. 107 min. 2013. Directed by Jocelyn Lehrer, Sc.D.

"This incredibly moving film examines our societal beliefs about masculinity with rare authenticity and candor... This film opens up an honest dialogue about what it means to "be a man" and how we can foster values of nonviolence, acceptance, and respect. **This is the type of spark we need to catalyze a movement. I would love to see this project replicated in every city and town across the world**—from New Delhi to Steubenville. Shifting social norms surrounding masculinity is crucial to breaking the cycle of violence." **-Esta Soler, President, Futures Without Violence**

"I have worked with men for more than 20 years, and am well aware of the need that we all have to tell our stories. I also know that there are very few spaces where we can do it safely and authentically. *Historias de Hombres* provides a moving and powerful example of men overcoming their negative socialization and fear, and sharing openly about painful and joyful experiences in their lives. It is an inspiring model on how to conduct difficult conversations and start the journey of healing that we all need to undertake to create a better world." **-Juan Carlos Areán, Director, National Latino Network for Healthy Families & Communities**



"An important and heartfelt film... Each narrative, from each of the men... came together like threads of wonder, beauty, sensitivity, doubts and strengths woven to form a cohesive and beautiful whole. Here, men tell their stories in a fashion so candid that it renders them compelling, and ultimately we can all relate to the issues they address, such as social justice, violence, health and mental health problems, and gender and sexual identity. This film is inspirational and can be used by teachers and students tackling these pressing issues or warming up for dialogues on the meaning of masculinity. The men in this film are all Latino, from Chile... Nonetheless, the struggles they narrate and solutions they found have universal appeal. As a professor of Social Work, I will certainly use this film in several classes and recommend that others do the same." **-Rogério Pinto, Columbia University School of Social Work**

"I laughed and I cried. The men in this film draw us into a deeply emotional experience, simply by sharing the raw stories of their lives... Most importantly, they are all stories of the search for love – to love and to be loved. One after another, these men demonstrate a vulnerability we do not usually associate with adult men... Through the Men's Story Project, Jocelyn Lehrer offers us a unique window into the complexities of masculinity and its painful impacts on boys and men, girls and women. Her introduction on this film is a brilliant example of a woman being an ally for the healing and liberation of men. In both process and content, this film helps us all recover our humanness. Witnessing these men telling their stories, we join them in the process of transformation." **-Steven Botkin, Ed.D., Executive Director, Men's Resources International**

FILM DESCRIPTION: This groundbreaking film highlights diverse Chilean men - celebrities, community leaders, and first-time presenters – sharing personal stories with a live audience at a popular theater in Santiago. The stories critically explore social ideas about masculinity and gender relations, and their links with key health and justice issues.

With unusual public candor, the presenters address topics including family relationships; fatherhood in the context of divorce; breaking the cycle of domestic violence; substance abuse; bullying; aging; homosexuality and the Church; transgender identity and LGBT rights; HIV/AIDS; men's evolving social roles; manual labor and classism; physical disability and self-actualization; and the healing power of self-acceptance, community and love.

The presenters include Coco Legrand – Chile's most popular comic; Pedro Sánchez Melivilo – a leader of Chile's indigenous Mapuche community; and Andrés Rivera Duarte – the first transgender man to legally change sex in Chile. Mediums include prose, comedy, dance, photography and video. Educational goals of the production were developed via interviews with researchers, health care providers and health educators regarding links of masculinities with key health and justice challenges in the country. Sponsored by Amnesty International. 12 chapter selections + director introduction.

Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZFhZUi7iJM&list=UUKUO7MFkzRbb2w8WSRm0EWg&index=7&feature=plcp>

To purchase, visit: www.mensstoryproject.org

MEN'S STORY PROJECT FILM CLIPS

(More clips can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/mensstoryproject)

Trailer for *The Men's Story Project: Building Strength, Creating Peace*

www.mensstoryproject.org

Trailer for *The Men's Story Project: Out Loud!*, sponsored by Amnesty International

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZFHzUi7iJM&list=UUKUO7MFkzRbb2w8WSRm0EWg&index=7&feature=plcp>

"Girls' Night Out" - Spoken word piece on being Mexican immigrant, from low-income background, gay, proud and fabulous.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s57naUY463c&list=UUKUO7MFkzRbb2w8WSRm0EWg&index=1&feature=plcp>

"Man-to-Man Talk" - Spoken word piece on intersections of being black, disabled, sexual and beautiful

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03qT3QadnDA>

"The Truth Will Set Us Free" (subtitled) - A man from rural Chile discusses having become a celibate missionary so as to "heal himself" from being gay, and finally accepting himself, leaving his missionary post, and coming out to family

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88viKiN8LVo&list=UUKUO7MFkzRbb2w8WSRm0EWg&index=5&feature=plcp>

The Violence of Masculinity - About the journey of personal reflection and change after having perpetrated partner violence, violence against other men, and violence against himself.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgXiLtlKu0&list=UUKUO7MFkzRbb2w8WSRm0EWg&index=5&feature=plcp>

"Man Up - Drain the Main Vein" - A lighter piece on men's posturing and projections of toughness

<http://www.youtube.com/user/mensstoryproject#p/u/33/6N79HrwNpNk>

"Masculinity in my Own Words" - A young man discusses telling his parents that he is gay and HIV-positive, and finding his own strength and path. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQ1WVGJOudk>

"A Vegetarian No More" – On having witnessed domestic violence as a child and subsequently serving as defense attorney for Deborah Peagler, who was incarcerated for 27 years for contributing to the death of her abuser. Peagler's story is the subject of the award-winning film, *Crime After Crime*, acquired by the Oprah Winfrey Network. <http://www.youtube.com/user/mensstoryproject#p/u/21/-5n5wVB9PYk>

"Stockholm Syndrome" - On being raised without male role models, and figuring out that he can decide what kind of man/person he wants to be. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR0qY8tHUdc>

"The Myth of Cool" - On pressures to be cool in high school, homophobia and harassment of gay students, and being sexually assaulted by a friend. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeG7o6lowVo>

"Finding the Gift in the Wound" - A well-known activist speaks on topics including facilitating the historic Crips-Bloods truce in Watts, forgiving the man who murdered his son, and experiencing childhood sexual abuse.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxMthEipmZA>

"The Gathering" - A trans poet discusses creating "a meeting place of masculinities and femininities," and their first experience of being feared by a woman on the street at night because they were perceived as a man of color.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jF10f53dq-k>





AUDIENCE FEEDBACK ON MSP LIVE PRODUCTIONS

"I laughed, cried & rethought my own prejudices... it was life-altering."

"Excellent, excellent program. Every voice is so authentic! It was amazing to get past each person's façade/separateness as a person and fully relate to them, even if we have very different life experiences. Well-produced. Very powerful! Go on tour! Perfect time for this movement to take seed."

"The courage it takes to not only reflect on, but to share stories that confront such taboo issues is very, very inspiring – and I will honor this bravery by engaging in this work with my students, friends, and future children. Thanks!!!"

"...I didn't even tell my friends about it because I didn't know about it much but now I'd spread the word far and wide... It's got such a wide appeal, is so powerful, eye-opening and enlivening, makes people feel connected, breaks down barriers and gives men a different kind of voice -- one where they can express their true selves free from traditional expectations of maleness. The variety of experiences is amazing, yet we all share a common thread... It's time for men to be able to publicly express their humanity - for everyone's healing. It enriches our society to have something like this happening. And, it's about time."

"[I gained] insight into people's lives much different than mine. I loved each speaker differently and they each taught me a lesson and opened my eyes."

"I gained a sort of sense of purpose... It also showed me that I'm not alone in what I feel & how I was treated."

"I learned more about the dangers of toxic masculinity."

"I was very inspired by the stories these men shared with us. This was the first time I felt like I was in a man's shoes as a woman. I felt the emotion they felt and it was incredible."

"It was SO awesome. It felt totally real, authentic, gripping, valuable and new... I can imagine it easily replicating, with equally (yet different!) great groups putting it on all over the damn place... Inspired idea, brilliantly executed. Really powerful to witness."

"I've spent many years intellectualizing and talking about sexism, patriarchy, homophobia and male violence, but rarely have I felt these issues in as visceral a way as I did tonight at the Men's Story Project. I was very touched by the courage of each of the men to be so vulnerable to an audience of almost complete strangers, tackle their most profound and personal subjects as men in front of others... I want to acknowledge that this evening's event was a big step toward us, as a community of human beings, becoming more whole.... The magnitude of what occurred – 16 men rising against a life-long training of silence and intimidation to open themselves, and hence the struggles of our society, at the absolute deepest levels for healing and transformation. I, personally, was very aware of the fact that these men were not obligated to be on that stage, and that those who bore witness to their stories were given a profound gift and honor that should not be taken for granted. I want to make sure that these men know that many of us present tonight will remember and celebrate these actions and stories for the rest of our lives."

"I appreciated the vulnerability the presenters showed the audience. The act of sharing alone is an inspiration and a challenge to masculinity and the values of stoicism that society imposes on all of us."

"[I learned] to live as a human being, to not worry about how I'm supposed to act, and to do what makes me happy."

"[I learned] to love my own story and enjoy the experience of hearing other people's experiences. TO BE ABLE TO OPEN UP and be real and share your life."

"[I gained] 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."

"Seeing people openly & generously speak their truth was good for my mental health. ☺ We are each others' best resources!"

"...Their collective expression of vulnerability, passion for change, truth, self-awareness, self-acceptance, humor, pain, and love - inward and outward was unparalleled. I have never heard many of these stories before, and I could write about how each and every one of them moved me. The range of emotions that I experienced throughout the show was truly a gift I couldn't have imagined receiving. Yes, it is true that we do live in a patriarchal society, that men experience privilege in ways that I never will. But there are also burdens in the dominant paradigm's notions of masculinity. To witness the veil being lifted was powerful... I hope this evening was as rewarding for them as it was for all of us."

"You caught me off guard with how potent that was. I felt deeply moved in tears and laughter, quaking through my body, but also impacted and altered enough to want to propel me into more action in my life and that of those around me to bring about shifts in consciousness... I have no doubt this will be an extremely successful project throughout the globe."



"In this one evening my eyes, mind and heart was opened up to more possibility and humanity than any 6 months in my Men's group. This is a fantastic experience for any group that is learning together."

"Thank you... I can't remember a more memorable and meaningful performance. Those men broke my heart and put it back together again with hope and love. Just amazing."

"What a remarkable evening. This felt like church to me. Honest, raw, hopeful, healing. Thanks for letting me be a witness."

"What an incredible night... A truly groundbreaking event, focusing on issues that so rarely are discussed, even in feminist circles... It's amazing to see

how diverse, moving, and universal the stories were...The uplifting momentum of the room more than made up for sitting on the floor. Laudations on a packed house!!!"

FEEDBACK ON MSP PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

"Very enlightening and engaging... Allowed me to look at the water I was swimming in." –*Male student, UW-Madison*

"The presentation was affirming... I feel more confident about standing up for my ideas now than I did before." –*Male student, UW-Madison*

"I live in a fraternity house of 36, 18-22 year-old men. I wish each of us shared with each other like those in the Men's Story Project." –*Male student, U. of Oregon*

"I find the film and the MSP very compelling. I was vaguely aware of these issues before, but this presentation has allowed me to see the cut and dry reality, and to be more critical of my own actions as well as the actions of other men." –*Chris Fernandez, President, Intrafraternity Council, UW-Madison*

"The presentation was insightful and impactful. I wish more people could hear the broader messages regarding social acceptance and understanding. I know many guys who could benefit from understanding the detriment of their insensitive jokes and casual language." –*Theta Delta Chi fraternity member, UW-Madison*

"I thought this project/film/presentation was FANTASTIC... I feel like I have a better understanding of men and their roles and how I as a woman can be helpful in preventing the spread of these roles and be supportive of men who don't conform." –Female student, UW-Madison

"The presentation was great! These issues are so hard to talk about, especially for men, and the way you present them is in a non-aggressive way. In my experience, men are often defensive when this topic is brought up; with your presentation, I don't know how they could be. Without specifically saying to reflect, your presentation encourages self-reflection and leaves space for audience members to interact and share their experiences." –Female student, UW-Madison

"Loved the project – very inspiring. Would love to replicate this model in Madison. This dialogue is very lacking and communities need to engage in conversations like this to promote real social change. Amazing project – my new idol." –Female student, UW-Madison

"The balance you struck between using both sociological/feminist methods for interpreting gender norms and using the stories to further deconstruct these masculinities was really incredible." –Charles Lindquist, Peer Education Coordinator, PAVE, UW-Madison

"More people need to be exposed to this; it has great value to all people and breaking the paradigms people hold onto that put others or themselves in pain." –Student, U. of Oregon

"Love that your presentation and MSP is deeply rooted in research and empirical evidence as well as emotional response! Can't wait to participate this year, but REALLY can't wait for the years of MSP at UO in the years to come." –Keith Frazee, Assistant Director of Orientation Programs, U. of Oregon

"As someone working in preventing sexual violence on campus and often feeling hopeless, this idea jazzes me and I am just so excited that it will be happening here... I felt you made good use of audience participation and the material, and I really appreciated all of your insight on the issues. Kudos and thank you." –Student, U. of Oregon

"Dr. Lehrer is a very effective speaker and a skilled workshop facilitator. The day-long workshop I co-led with Dr. Lehrer using the Men's Story Project film, here at John F. Kennedy University, was very successful in stimulating a moving and educational discussion on the social construction of masculinity and pain and violence associated with it..." –Gary Hoeber, MFT, Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology, John F. Kennedy University

"The open, honest dialogue was powerful & healing." –Participant, MSP workshop, JFK University

"I loved ALL OF IT! The film clips were AMAZING and fostered a really deep, rich dialogue. My heart is full and open!" –Participant, MSP workshop, JFK University

"Gained a lot of insight on how to prepare, organize and facilitate this project. Training and Powerpoint flowed very well. Many opportunities to ask questions, give feedback, etc. Kept attention very well... Many sources of/for information provided. Definitely believe that at end of training we were provided with enough support to start immediately." –Participant, MSP training, Humboldt State University

"I was enthralled by Dr. Lehrer's presentation as she fluidly moved between sharing powerful stories/clips of the men featured in the project and discussions of its academic and theoretical underpinnings. Her passion for the project was evident and she created a warm and welcoming setting that allowed deep emotions and academic theory to coexist peacefully. Dr. Lehrer's presentation even inspired some of the men in attendance to publicly share their own stories. As a result of her presentation, I left excited about the project and have since been working with Dr. Lehrer and some of my community partners (who are equally excited) to sponsor our own MSP event here in Boston." –Duane de Four, Manager, Program for Violence Prevention and Response, Massachusetts Institute of Technology