

Invitation TO MEN



Arts Council England has provided funding to enable a not-for-profit production of men's monologues, to be entitled 'Cock and Bull Stories — Men Talking Masculinity'.

We are inviting men, through personal invitation only, to write or collect monologues on the theme of men and their masculinity, based on personal experiences. This should be something that has happened to you or to a person you have interviewed.

The idea was originally inspired by Eve Ensler's 'Vagina Monologues', which has been performed locally for the last two years, aiming to increase awareness concerning the abuse of women.

These new men's monologues aim to explore the theme of:

What makes a man?

Around 12-30 monologues are to be selected by the production team who may edit them into lists on a common theme. The performance team, consisting of local male volunteers, will not perform their own monologues. The performances are planned to take place at The Trades Club 3rd December and Hebden Bridge Little Theatre 6th December. Monologues may also be used in a publication to raise awareness and to encourage debate on issues concerning masculinity and manhood.

Please keep your monologues anonymous and remove or change all the names so that we can't identify the writer. Contributions on floppy disk or on CD are preferred, but if sent via e-mail the sender's details will be removed. Those without computers can send anonymous hand-written monologues. Try to keep each one to under four pages or about 2000 words. They can also be very short, perhaps consisting of poems or songs that you have written. Your spelling or writing style doesn't matter as long as we can read it!

Details may be changed to protect your identity and confidentiality. All information received will be treated with respect.

Please send your contact details separately if you would like to be considered as a performer. This requires you to attend two half day workshops and five rehearsals from October. No experience is necessary — we can all help each other.

A list of suggested topics is provided overleaf, although any topic of your choice within the central theme can be explored. Feel free to write on several topics or one-liners. It's hoped that some will be funny, some tragic, all from the heart. So go on, have a go! Let's make his story!

Deadline: August 31st 2006

If writing your monologue results in a need for support, you can call one of these useful numbers:

The Samaritans

0845 79 09 09 0

Victim Support helpline:

0845 30 30 900

Men's advice line and enquiries:

020 8644 9914

or you can visit either of these websites:

Hidden Hurt:

www.hiddenhurt.co.uk/victim/formen.htm

Men's health:

www.bbc.co.uk/health/menshealth/

Send to:

Monologues, 15 Eaves Avenue,
Hebden Bridge, HX7 6DJ

or send your monologues as plain text within the body of an e-mail to:

mycbstory@yahoo.co.uk

You can also contact the above address if you have any difficulties in providing your monologues in written form.

Suggested topics from your own experience, in no particular order:

Love
Sex
Erections
Wet dreams
Impotence
Orgasm
Loneliness
Trying to stop ejaculation
Housework
Birth
DIY
Fighting
Shyness
Coming out
Aids
Tantric sex
Prostate cancer
Pub talk
Being an older man
Bravery
Weakness
Strength
Testiculitis
Circumcision
Fatherhood
Foreplay
Men's rituals
Marriage
Relationships
Disability
Abuse
War
Crying
Paying for sex
Rent boys
Childhood
Homosexuality

Sex change
Transvestites
Adolescence
The Karma Sutra
Grandfather
The barber's shop
Contraception
Premature ejaculation
Courting
Comics
Being Macho
My penis
My testicles
Size
Childhood heroes
How I'm different to most men I know

If possible, could you comment separately on the following:

A suggested title for your monologue.

What were you told about sex?

"My father, friend, or whoever, told me...."

What word or phrase do you use to describe masturbation?

What do you expect of yourself as a man?

What do others expect of you as a man?