

## **TWO MEN TALKING WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES**

**Judaism and sexuality** –workshop that includes Jewish LGBT students on campus and members of a local LGBT temple. A conversation about the acceptance of being gay in the context of being Jewish. Stories about how religion sometimes adds to feelings of self-loathing, and finding ways to reconcile being a spiritual and even religious person, who is LGBT. It applies to all religions though for this particular workshop the context is Jewish.

**The One Project** – workshop that includes freshman and sophomores from the campus LGBT community – possibly connecting to cyber-bullying and recent rash of suicides, etc.

**Women and HIV** – a number of local resources for HIV have support groups for women, and/or women storytelling initiatives.

**MFA in performance studies students:** Spent day with MFA students leading them in a storytelling workshop and then having them tell their stories using physicalization. Previous students were very excited by the experience and asked for a longer workshop in which they could co-construct a performance made up of their individual stories.

**Cyber-bullying forum.** Working with student activities and the Digital Cultures program on campus, explore cyber-bullying through a large campus event. Envisioning maybe an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes of presentation, then breaking up into small groups that are moderated for discussion.

**Creative Dialogue: *What Does One Life Really Mean?*** Sharing stories about our lives fulfills the basic human need to be known and acknowledged. Paul Browde and Murray Nossel, real-life boyhood adversaries, have witnessed first-hand the healing power of this kind of heartfelt exchange and they bring that knowledge to the stage in performances of *Two Men Talking*. In this Creative Dialogue, they'll engage the audience in conversation about the healing power of narrative, the reciprocal relationship between listening and telling and the value of bearing witness.

**Brown bag Lunch with faculty.** Faculty bring lunch and have an informal discussion hearing about the storytelling methodology and asking questions.

**Storytelling group** for the gay religious students. (Both Jewish and Christian students have attended).

**Performances of Two Men Talking** with talk backs.

## **WHO OWNS A STORY: A WORKSHOP**

As members of groups such as families, schools and organizations, our personal stories affect others. Who owns a story? Do I own it because I am the "main character" in it? Or do other people have ownership too, and therefore the right to shape how, when and to whom it is told?

Given these complex questions, not every story is ready to be told publicly. This workshop examines the stories we want to tell in the context of the different communities in which we live and how to negotiate the ethics of telling as well as the process of gaining informed consent from the other characters.

Questions to be dealt with in the workshop include:

- Is telling the story psychologically safe for us or for others?
- Is telling the story politically safe for us or for others?
- What are the ethical considerations for telling a particular story?
- What constitutes informed consent from other characters in a story?
- Telling an "unpopular" story.