



**Season 2:**  
**black**  
**stories**  
**matter**

PRESS KIT





## **Season 2: Black Stories Matter**

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**TMI Project** | 65 Saint James Street, Kingston, NY 12401

## WHAT

**The TMI Project Podcast is a free quarterly podcast featuring radically candid true stories from historically underrepresented populations often overlooked by mainstream media.**

In alignment with the Black Lives Matter movement, Season two of The TMI Project Podcast: Black Stories Matter amplifies the voices of Black storytellers who got on stage and shared their stories of joy, pain and resilience.

## WHEN

TMI Project will launch Season 2 of The TMI Project Podcast: Black Stories Matter, on October 28th, 2020.

## WHO

**TMI Project:** TMI Project is a nonprofit transmedia organization that believes in the power of changing the world one (radically candid) story at a time. Since 2010, TMI Project has led approximately 90 true storytelling workshops and staged live storytelling performances by more than 1,750 storytellers, which have been presented to audiences of nearly 50,000 people in schools, colleges, prisons, mental health clinics, theaters, community centers and the United Nations. The culminating content - written stories, live storytelling performances, videos, and podcasts - is accessible to an all-inclusive audience.

In response to Trayvon Martin's murder, TMI Project launched [Black Stories Matter](#) workshops - Black-led true storytelling programming where Black folks can write about, share, and reflect upon their experiences without having to justify, explain, or defend the truth of their lived experiences.

# Podcast Co-hosts:



**Micah**

**Black Stories Matter Co-Director  
& TMI Project Workshop Leader**

*Pronoun: He/Him/His*

*"The Black Stories Matter workshop is how I first started with TMI Project. I was a participant in 2017 as part of the first cast but then I got more involved and became a facilitator. We as black people have always had stories to tell. Coming together in community to share them is deeply healing i think for all of us. White America, by choice and by ignorance, has been denied our stories and is maybe just maybe now recognizing how unhealthy that dynamic has been. Being a part of Black Stories Matter, of supporting the development of our stories, our truths -- there's really nothing more important to me."*

In addition to leading TMI Project workshops, Micah serves as the manager at GWI's (Good Works Institute) Greenhouse Kingston, a yoga teacher at Mudita, and creator of DAY 1 (a New Year's Day community event). He is on the board of Wild Earth (a non-profit Wilderness School), Radio Kingston, The Center for Creative Education, and O+ (a nonprofit health and wellness festival for artists and creators). He also serves as City of Kingston's Art Commissioner at the Kingston Farmers Market.

[Download Micah's headshot](#)



**Eva Tenuto**

**TMI Project Co-founder &  
Executive Director**

*Pronoun: She/Her/Hers*

*"Silencing marginalized groups of people has long been a tool used by those in power to maintain their status, which is why true storytelling has been and remains a vital component of social justice movement building. Nothing gives me deeper satisfaction than knowing we're using TMI Project's methodology to break down systemic oppression by speaking truth to power."*

Eva Tenuto is the co-founder and executive director of TMI Project. Since 2010, she has brought TMI Project from her living room to a host of performance spaces, schools, detention centers, mental health facilities and the United Nations. Eva is the editor and director of multiple solo shows, one of which was awarded Best Comedic Script of 2014 in the United Solo Festival. In 2018, her directorial film debut, Vicarious Resilience, a docu short, celebrated its world premiere at The Woodstock Film Festival. Eva's own true stories have been published on Longreads.com and in numerous anthologies including Drinking Diaries, Goodbye to All That and others. Eva studied acting at American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She received a BA in Fine Art and Women's Studies and an MA in Elementary Education, both from Hunter College. More at [www.evatenuto.com](http://www.evatenuto.com)

[Download Eva's headshot](#)

# Season 2 Guest Co-host:



**Dara Lurie**

**Black Stories Matter Co-Director  
& TMI Project Workshop Leader**

*Pronoun: She/Her/Hers*

*"Writing and then sharing my story in my first TMI Project performance in 2017 allowed me to affirm and claim an important part of my life experience. Performing with and now mentoring other groups of TMI Project workshop writers, I've found the family I always wanted: a family based on telling stories with truth, courage and compassion."*

In addition to leading TMI Project workshops, Dara is an author and manuscript coach. She received a B.A. in Film & Theater from Vassar College and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Hunter College. Dara grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and migrated in the early 1980s to West Berlin, Germany, where she tended bar, wrote and performed in the theater while living in different communities of squatters, Green Party activists, journalists, teachers, and social workers. Her first book, Great Space of Desire; Writing for Personal Evolution, is a memoir and creative guide for writers wishing to tell their own stories.

# Some Voices of Season 2:



**Freedom Walker**  
*Storyteller*

"Reading the story was my gift to my family members who have passed on and to my ancestors. I was able to acknowledge them. I never had that opportunity to do that publicly before. I was able to challenge what society labelled as one of the many terrible situations to go through. In society's term, my life was basically over."



**Twinkle Burke**  
*Storyteller*

"I felt and feel empowered to speak up about racism that I encounter daily. It has helped me be stronger in sighting and correcting the 'pedestrian' racism in the world."



**Jessieca McNabb**  
*Storyteller*

"TMI Project has definitely changed my life. It has taught me how to express myself in a way that is healing. I am able to articulate situations without the shame that normally would have been attached."



**Shawaine Davis**  
*Storyteller*

"Writing my story with TMI Project was like a light coming through a dark door. My story brought out elements in myself I did not previously think I had. It also helped me gain confidence, and most importantly, it helped me find the strength to speak up. I felt free to share my story, I felt like now I had a voice and people would hear it."



**Kesai Reddick**  
*Storyteller*

"Growing up, not knowing my dad is not knowing my masculine self, my blackness, who I am as a person."



**Odell Winfield**  
*Storyteller*

"I learned a lot in Ms. Kaufman's third grade class. I learned that I could never be President in my own country."

# Additional Black Stories Matter Staff:



## **Shantae Howell**

**PR Consultant**

*Pronoun: She/Her/Hers*

Shantae is a creative marketing professional, with experience in PR, digital media and content development. In her main gig at Vox Media, she leads the ideation and promotional strategy for various entertainment, podcast and cause-marketing campaigns. The fruits of her labor range from branded audio content and short films to editorial sponsorships and snackable influencer videos. Prior to joining Vox Media's creative team, Shantae was at Facebook supporting small businesses' on-platform marketing campaigns, and executed consumer brand media strategies at Ketchum.



## **Clarissa Marie Ligon**

**Virtual Workshop Manager**

*Pronoun: She/They*

Clarissa is a self-proclaimed 'Renaissance Woman' who makes art because she believes it can change the world. Recent production work includes: Dana H. at The Vineyard Theatre, Measure for Measure at The Public Theatre – Mobile Unit, Before The Meeting at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Jack & at BAM Fisher, Black Light at the Greenwich House Theatre.

# HOW

This show would not be possible without:

## **Hayley Downs, Podcast Producer**

Writer, storyteller, documentary filmmaker and TMI Project workshop leader.

In addition to producing The TMI Project Podcast and leading TMI Project workshops, Hayley is a writer, storyteller and documentary filmmaker. She produced the documentary film Hidden Battles directed by Victoria Mills about the psychological effects of killing on soldiers. She also produced and broadcast edited Naturally Obsessed: the Making of a Scientist, a documentary about laboratory research by Richard and Carole Rifkind. Naturally Obsessed premiered on WNYC/Thirteen and is distributed by PBS International. Most recently she produced J.L. Sert: A Nomadic Dream, a Spanish/U.S. co-production directed by Pablo Bujosa. Her installations and experimental films: Move, Coleslaw Wrestling and Boar Hog, exploring multi-generational Florida folk culture, have shown at underground film festivals including NY, Chicago and SF, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Miami and Art Basel. Her angst-filled teen journal was included in Mortified: Real Words, Real People, Real Pathetic, published by Simon Spotlight Entertainment. Hayley moved to upstate New York from Brooklyn four years ago where she's focused on writing and her work as a TMI Project Workshop Leader.



## **Radio Kingston, Podcast Partner**

Radio Kingston is a non-commercial platform dedicated to a vibrant, just, and healthy Kingston centered around community storytelling, artistic and musical expression, conversation and connection.

# WHY

Black Stories Matter will be of particular interest to the growing Black Lives Matter movement to end systemic racism as activists and allies continue the work of amplifying Black voices.

In conversation with shows like The 1619 Project and Into America, Black Stories Matter serves as a resource for authentic, intersectional and nuanced stories about the Black experience that inspires introspection and accountability.

## WHERE

Visit [tmiproject.org/podcastseason2](https://tmiproject.org/podcastseason2) for more information, and subscribe to The TMI Project Podcast everywhere you listen to podcasts.

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