



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Trans Stories Matter

TMI Project announces call for storytellers for the first Black Trans Stories Matter true storytelling performance to be produced on June 12, 2021

KINGSTON, NY -- February 2, 2021 -- In partnership with the Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center, TMI Project is proud to announce a national call for storytellers who self-identify as members of the Black Transgender Non-Conforming community. TMI Project is offering its first-ever Black Trans Stories Matter true storytelling workshop in April and May of 2021 which will culminate in a live virtual performance on Saturday, June 12, 2021. The workshop series will be a Black trans-led space for Black TGNC people to gather, write, share stories, and receive support without justifying, explaining, or defending their truth. The culminating content will be accessible to an all-inclusive audience, paired with strategic tools to inspire deep introspection, a willingness to transform oneself and take bold action to end systemic racism and transphobia.

Cece Suazo, actress, ballroom icon, and TMI Project storyteller initiated this program and now serves as the Black Trans Stories Matter Community Outreach Coordinator. "I am thrilled to launch Black Trans Stories Matter. We will let the world know that BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER! We are human and deserve equality, yet we're murdered at alarming rates daily. I know that, like me, many people in my community are afraid to go outside for fear of becoming a target of ignorant violence. But, we are warriors and will continue to fight for change, not only for ourselves but for all those who come after us in future generations." Erik Harris, Program Assistant at the Center and Workshop Leader for Black Trans Stories Matter added, "As a Black trans man, I know I have been lucky to come of age in environments that valued my input and allowed me to thrive, but that is not the reality for so many other people like me. When I heard about Black Trans Stories Matter, I knew I had to get involved because my community has so many powerful folks and stories that have yet to be heard."

Schools, Universities, LGBTQIA+ Centers, and groups of any kind nationwide can sign up to host a screening. TMI Project will supply marketing materials and a Viewing and Discussion Guide for all hosts. Eva Tenuto, co-founder and executive director of TMI Project said nothing gives her deeper satisfaction than knowing TMI Project's methodology is being used to break down systemic oppression. "Silencing marginalized groups of people has long been a tool used by those in power to maintain their status, which is why true storytelling and speaking truth to power have been and remain vital components of social justice movement building."

"Our Black Trans family members have always been at the forefront of strides towards equality and justice, simultaneously facing disproportionate levels of discrimination, routine brutalization, violence, and erasure. Black Trans Stories Matter provides an opportunity to spotlight these voices, heighten awareness, and activate change," said Amanda Norton, Director of Programs & Services at the Center.

Only 10 applicants will be chosen for the workshop and performance but others may be invited to publish their stories on our website and across our social media platforms.

Applications for storytellers are due by March 1st! Chosen applicants will be contacted by March 15th and will receive a \$500 stipend for their time and participation. You must be available Mondays, 7-9 PM EST in April, May, and June (with the exception of Memorial Day) and the evening of the performance date, Saturday, June 12, to be considered.

To learn more, register for tickets to the performance, host the event, or to apply for a spot in the workshop visit <https://www.tmiproject.org/black-trans-stories-matter/>.

Black Trans Stories Matter supports and is aligned with the mission of [Black Lives Matter](#).

ABOUT TMI PROJECT

TMI Project's mission is to help craft and amplify radically true stories to ignite human connection, challenge the status quo, and inspire both storytellers and listeners to take action for positive social change.

We do this by:

- Teaching true storytelling workshops which culminate in live performances and digital content that focus on the “too much information” parts of a story typically left out because of shame, stigma, fear or cultural expectation.
- Centering our programming around four social justice initiatives: Anti-Racism, Gender Equality, LGBTQIA+ Rights, and Mental Health Awareness.
- Partnering with schools, nonprofits, small businesses, and corporations to work with directly impacted folks, students, emerging and veteran activists, and leaders.
- Shining the spotlight on the stories that may not be featured in mainstream media or recognized in history books but have the power to change the world.

Since 2010, TMI Project has led more than 100 true storytelling workshops and staged live storytelling performances by nearly 2,000 storytellers, which have been presented to audiences of over 60,000 people in schools, colleges, prisons, mental health clinics, theaters, community centers, the United Nations and online.

ABOUT HUDSON VALLEY LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER

As a safe, supportive environment, the Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center provides services, professional resources, and programs that unite the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning community across lines of age, race, gender, and economics. Our purpose is to strengthen, support, and celebrate LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and groups in their efforts to achieve their fullest potential.

The center strives for positive social change through advocacy, community education, cultural awareness, and wellness programs that assist in the creation, development, and growth of LGBTQ+-affirming organizations, institutions, and culture within the community at large.

FOR MORE INFO

Visit www.tmiproject.org.

PRESS CONTACT

Eva Tenuto: eva@tmiproject.org or 914-299-2363
